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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—On Monday collections were made in all the Paris churches for the hospital chaplaincies, which were disestablished two years ago. The Comte de Paris forwarded £40 to Archbishop Guibert.

The Paris Correctional Tribunal dealt on Saturday with the ten Anarchists who were arrested for distributing and posting the seditious placard convening for last Monday a meeting of unemployed workmen in front of the Opera House. Several of them were of the class who, under the Bill which has just passed the Senate, would be relegated as récidivistes to the colonies. Albrecht, a German, was acquitted. Martinet was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and five years' police supervision; Pivier to six months' imprisonment, and the remaining seven to three months' imprisonment. Two Anarchists were arrested at Lyons on Saturday for inciting to murder and plunder.

The "Mardi Gras" celebration in Paris on Tuesday was favoured during the early part of the day with beautiful weather, the sun shining brightly and the temperature being that of a warm spring day. As a consequence, the boulevards were densely thronged throughout the morning and afternoon by a pleasure-seeking crowd. There was, indeed, no lack of pleasure-seekers, although there was very little to gratify them, save the familiar forms of amusement. The conventional "Mardi Gras" cars were commonplace when they did not take the form of vulgar advertisement, and the pedestrian maskers were more often absurdly grotesque than artistic or original in their costumes. In the evening there were masked balls at the Eden Theatre, the Elysée Montmartre, the Bal Bullier, and the Tivoli; the children's masked ball at the opera—the prettiest and most interesting of all—taking place in the afternoon.

The French Minister of War has received from General Brière de Lisle despatches dated from Langson, and giving details of the operations which resulted in the capture of that place. The French subsequently occupied advanced positions beyond Langson in a hilly country. The march was skilfully combined and well executed, notwithstanding the difficulties which the troops had to surmount. A large quantity of arms, ammunition, and considerable stores of rice were captured.

ITALY.—Many years after the death in 1849 of Cardinal Mezzofanti, celebrated for the extraordinary facility with which he spoke various languages and dialects, so that whosoever talked with him believed him to be a countryman, a committee was formed to erect a monument in his honour. This monument is now ready, and will be placed in Rome, near that of Tasso. It is by Bonola, and is adorned with a bass-relief representing Mezzofanti receiving the homage of mankind, expressed by a group of women, allegorical of the four quarters of the globe. The Cardinal stands on the steps of a throne, on the arm of which he leans one hand while he stretches forth the other to receive the group which is escorted by the Genius of Languages. First comes Europe, crowned and robed in Grecian garments as a sign of Hellenic cultivation. Asia follows in Eastern dress, a very beautiful figure. Then Africa, her foot resting on the base of an Egyptian obelisk, to the hieroglyphics of which she is pointing. Her head is covered by a cap in the form of an elephant's head, and a lion stands by her side. The group is completed by America, dressed in a short tunic and plumed cap, and holding in her hands a papyrus and a hunter's bow. Behind the figure stands a palm-tree.

RUSSIA.—Since the conclusion of the recent Concordat with the Vatican, the activity of the reinstated Roman Catholic clergy among the Poles has been viewed by the Russians with suspicion, which has now been brought to a climax by the downright condemnation of the arrangement, pronounced by M. Katkoff in the *Moscow Gazette*, and the recent differences about ecclesiastical etiquette at Kieff and elsewhere between Orthodox Bishops and Roman Catholic priests. Mgr. Kryniewiscki, Roman Catholic Bishop of Wilna, was summoned to St. Petersburg some days ago to explain certain disrespectful and hostile proceedings on his part as regards the Russian government in Poland, and by Imperial order has been banished to the town of Jaroslay under the supervision of the police.

The *Journal de St. Pétersbourg* describes as a *canard* the intelligence attributing to Russia the design of seizing Herat, and quotes from an article in the *Novoe Vremya* contradicting the report, and affirming Russia's pacific feeling towards Afghanistan.

GERMANY.—In the Reichstag on Saturday, Prince Bismarck, after declaring his aversion to large estates and expressing himself greatly in favour of the partition and dismemberment of great landed properties, said: "The landowners who live on their estates are not the worst, but rather those who live in a city, be it Paris, Rome, or Berlin, and only demand money from their stewards without representing their tenants in Parliament, or elsewhere concerning themselves about their welfare. Therein lies the misery of great estates; but proprietors who live in the country are, under the circumstances, a great blessing, and very useful. If England, by retaining her present corn legislation, allows her landlords to be gradually ruined, I do not believe that will be advantageous to the future of England or the prosperity of the rural population. Those landowners will then live in town on their rents, summer and winter, without knowing anything of country life, or at most will leave the city only for a fashionable hunting-party. I regard it as one of the most essential advantages of German life that a great part of our wealthy classes live in the country the entire year round, and carry on agriculture directly and for themselves.

SWITZERLAND.—The work of fortifying the Federal Palace at Berne against Anarchist attacks, writes a correspondent, goes on with great activity. The cellar windows are all strongly barricaded, and the first story windows have been furnished with strong iron shutters, which are carefully closed at sunset. In their sitting of last Friday the Federal Council discussed the expediency of entirely closing the court of the Palace to strangers, and it will probably be enclosed by an iron railing, sufficiently strong and high to place that part of the building and the war treasure which it contains beyond the reach of dynamitards or other desperadoes. These measures are not being taken merely because members of the Government have received threatening letters, but in consequence of information communicated by the German and Prussian police to the effect that certain members of the Anarchist party have made a plot for the blowing up of the Federal Palace. The *Bund*, which is regarded as the semi-official organ of the Government, demands that a stringent inquiry be instituted with a view to ascertain if Anarchist plots are really organised in Switzerland, and calls upon the authorities to expel from the territory of the Confederation those of the supposed guilty parties who are foreigners, and prosecute those of them, if any, who are Swiss. In support of these proposals the *Bund* adduces the precedent of 1850, when 560 German Socialists were sent out of the country by a single decree of the Federal Council. The difficulty in the way of any such proceeding in the present case is that dynamitards, from whom alone danger is apprehended, do not openly proclaim their calling, and are not easily detected, above all, before they have committed any overt act, while known Socialist refugees are generally careful not to compromise themselves by acts likely to bring about their expulsion.

INDIA.—The *Indian Churchman* quotes from a Madras paper the following description of a strange scene lately witnessed in Colombo, the formal apostasy of the Rev. C. W. Leadbeater:—

"A Christian minister sitting at the feet of the yellow-robed priests of Buddha, and solemnly repeating, after them—'I take my refuge in Buddha! I take my refuge in the law! I take my refuge in the order!' The *Pansil* ceremony was administered by the High Priest, the Rev. H. Sumangala, principal of the Vidyodaya College at Colombo, who was assisted by the Rev. T. Amaramoli, a Buddhist priest, both of whom recited the *Pirit* (blessings) used on such occasions. Among those present were Colonel Olcott, Mdme. Blavatsky, and a number of passengers from the *Navarino*, by which Mr. Leadbeater had arrived, and many prominent native citizens of Ceylon. On being requested by the High Priest to state his reasons why he desired to become a follower of Lord Buddha, Mr. Leadbeater stated that it was his desire to arrive at the truth expressed in purer form in Buddhism than in any other system with which he was acquainted. He further stated that while the Christian doctrines were all based upon hearsay evidence and upon doubtful authority, and required him to believe many unreasonable things, the teaching of Gautama Buddha, which stands forth most prominently, is that we should believe nothing which our reason cannot accept as true; because faith, to be lasting, must be based upon sound reason and common sense."

Mr. Leadbeater is said to have been a curate in a parish in Hampshire. In the *Clergy List* the Rev. C. W. Leadbeater is described as a literate, ordained priest and deacon by the Bishop of Winchester in 1878-1879 respectively, and holding the curacy of Bramshott, in Hampshire. There is no other Leadbeater in the *List*.

CANADA.—At the meeting of the Synod of New Westminster last November the Committee on Laws Affecting Marriage presented the following report, which was adopted:—

"(*a*) We respectfully recommend the Bishop to put himself in communication with the heads of the Church in the different provinces of Canada; to ascertain what are the rules of law in force in each province respecting the solemnisation of marriage; and what is the established practice as to the hours within which marriages are to be solemnised, and, if necessary, to take steps to have the existing laws amended as he may be advised.

"(*b*) The committee recommends that the solemnisation of marriage should invariably take place publicly in church, unless good reason exist to the contrary or the same is impracticable.

"(*c*) The committee recommend the clergy, as far as it is in their power, to endeavour to induce the laity to conform to the ancient custom of the Church, of being married after the publication of banns.

"(*d*) The committee recommend that the Table of Kindred and Affinity be procured by each clergyman and affixed to the usual place in his church."

SPAIN.—The proposed vote of censure in Congress on the Government action in the recent students' riots was on Saturday night rejected by 241 to 65 votes, after a fortnight's debate. All the Liberal fractions and the Republicans, under Señor Castelar, supported the motion.

ROUMANIA.—A new Ministry has been constituted as follows:—

"M. John Bratiano, President of the Council and Minister of the Interior; M. Campineano, Foreign Affairs; M. Stourdza, Instruction and Public Worship; M. Lecca, Finance; M. Nacon, Justice; M. Stolojan, Commerce; General Falcoyano, War; General Radou Mahai, Public Works."

EGYPT.—Nubar Pasha has notified to the German and Russian Diplomatic Agents that the British Government has accepted the demand of their respective Governments to be represented on the *Caisse*, and that the Italian Government has withdrawn its former reservation. It is understood that the German Government has designated Baron von Richtofen, formerly of the Berlin Foreign Office, and the Russian Government Prince Mourousi, formerly of the Cairo Tribunal of First Instance, as their representatives. The negotiations with the Powers with regard to the financial question have, it appears, been concluded, and the English Government will be able to announce the scheme immediately after the reassembling of Parliament.

It is high time (says the *Times* correspondent) that some change should be effected in the railway administration. Important letters from chiefs of departments remain for five months without notice, passing from one member of the board to another for translation, and being finally shelved. The president of the board and the chief engineer of the permanent way decline to travel by the only fast train running between Alexandria and Cairo, because they deem it unsafe—although it takes four hours and a half to proceed 137 miles.

The new Deaconesses' Hospital at Cairo was opened on Sunday with Divine service. Addresses followed in English and German to the patrons and subscribers.

The *Morning Post* understands that the convention signed by England and the other Great Powers with regard to the settlement of Egyptian finances may be considered a complete capitulation on the part of Great Britain. When the text of the convention shall be made known, the public will be fully justified in asking what was Lord Granville's object a few months ago in summarily putting an end to the proceedings of the Conference which had met in London. Indeed, the acceptance of the conditions dictated by France would have been more justifiable twelve months ago than it is after the late events in Egypt and the Soudan. England has abandoned the idea of a reduction of ½ per cent. on the Egyptian Funds, and has accepted instead the joint proposals of the Powers. The Egyptian Debt will be guaranteed by the Powers in equal shares, each guaranteeing one-sixth part. Contrary to what has been stated, all the Powers, including Russia, have assumed a share of the guarantee, and by the admission of Germany and Russia into the Commission of the Caisse at Cairo it may fairly be asserted that for the Anglo-French control there has now been substituted a joint control of all the Powers. The question of the neutrality of the Suez Canal has been solved in principle, and the particulars and regulations will form the subject of special negotiations between the different Cabinets.

Further correspondence respecting the finances of Egypt has been published, extending from July 3 to October 27 of last year, and deals chiefly with the mission of Lord Northbrook to Egypt, and his statement regarding the condition of the Egyptian Treasury. In a despatch to Lord Granville, dated October 5, Lord Northbrook comments on the action commenced by the Commissioners of the Public Debt against Nubar Pasha and other officials of the Egyptian Government, and refers to the opinion expressed by the Khedive in an interview with Lord Northbrook that such a proceeding could not fail to produce the effect of dangerously weakening the authority of the Government. In the opinion of Lord Northbrook the action of the Commissioners has been singularly precipitate and ill-advised. The Commissioners of the Caisse were the representatives of the bondholders; and their action, if persisted in, and if it should succeed, must entail the bankruptcy of Egypt. His Lordship further expresses the opinion that the interests of the bondholders would not have suffered if the Commissioners had waited until his inquiries had been concluded and his report had been presented to Her Majesty's Government, before taking a course which cannot but have the effect of weakening the Government of Egypt and of injuriously affecting at a critical time the security of the country, in the welfare of which the bondholders themselves were deeply interested. Referring to the arguments of certain critics, that the suspension of the surplus of the Caisse after payment of the annuity to the privileged and coupon of the Unified Debt, should not have been made without the consent of the Powers, his Lordship observes that when he arrived in Egypt on the 10th of September he found the finances in so critical a state that, unless resources were placed at the disposal of the Egyptian Government before the end of the month, they would have been obliged either to cease to defray the ordinary charges of the administration, or to fail in fulfilling their obligation for the payment of the Egyptian tribute to the Porte. As to the contention that it would have been better for the Egyptian Government to have failed in paying the tribute due to the Porte than to have diverted the surplus from the Caisse, his Lordship says the payment of the tribute to the Porte forms a portion of what may be termed the Constitution of Egypt, and to have failed in making these payments might have given rise to political difficulties of the gravest character, affecting not Egypt alone but the whole of Europe. In a despatch dated October 24, on leaving Cairo, his Lordship expresses the thanks of the Khedive for the support of the English Government, accompanying them with his own acknowledgments of the benefit he had received from his Highness's suggestions.

The Pope has conferred the dignity of a Mitred Abbot upon the Benedictine Father Bernard Smith, Consultor of the Congregation of the Propaganda Fide, and formerly Professor of Dogmatic Theology in that college. Father Smith is well known among English students and visitors in Rome for his profound knowledge of Christian archæology.—*Times Correspondent.*

Cardinal Chigi died on Sunday afternoon, in his seventy-fifth year. He was created Cardinal by Pius IX. in 1873, and was Nuncio at Paris until the fall of Napoleon III.

The Rev. Dr. James Clark, F.R.A.S., examining chaplain to the Bishop of Antigua, has been collated to the archdeaconry of Antigua, vacant by the resignation of the Bishop-coadjutor. Dr. Clark, who was educated in the Universities of London and Göttingen, was British chaplain at Memel, in Prussia, and afterwards lecturer in London for the Christian Evidence Society. In 1876 he was appointed rector of St. Philip's, Antigua, and in 1882 examining chaplain to the Bishop. He is the author of *The Church as Established in its Relations with Dissent. The Nature and Province of Christian Ethics Defined and Determined*, &c.

The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill has just been passed in both Houses of the Barbados Legislature, every member in each House voted. A noteworthy feature of the local controversy was the complete withdrawal of all opposition on the part of the Bishop and clergy, who had at first unanimously petitioned against the measure. This course was apparently taken in deference to public opinion.—*Daily News.*

Munich papers report the death early last week of the Rev. George Messmer, vicar of the Collegiate church of St. Cajetan, which serves as the Chapel Royal of the Bavarian Court. But his great reputation was acquired in departments lying far apart from his clerical duties. He was one of the most industrious Shakespearian scholars in Germany, devoting himself especially to the investigation and criticism of *Macbeth*, on which he has published a work considered by German students as the best on the subject. He also published annually during the last ten years an *Astronomical Guide*, which enjoyed very great esteem for its admirable explanation of all the latest discoveries in astronomy and the cognate sciences in a form which made them intelligible to persons of moderate scientific knowledge. He was not quite fifty-eight years of age, and his death was rather sudden.

A recent visitor to New Caledonia gives a shocking account of the state of society in that island. It appears that the number of crimtnals living there amounts to about 10,500. The mortality is very great, and there are numerous escapes. During the last ten years no fewer than 247 convicts who have managed to smuggle themselves on board ship have been discovered in the Australian colonies. The grievances of the colonists are therefore by no means remote or imaginary. In the first instance, no attempt is made to classify the prisoners, and the results are often disastrous to those who are only partially depraved. The convicts are ultimately divided into five classes, ranging from men who are kept to severe labour, without any relaxation or indulgences, to men who, owing to their good conduct, enjoy comparative freedom, and are restored to family life. Many of the convicts, however, employ their conditional liberty in preying upon the free settlers and the natives, and the state of things in the colony has in consequence become intolerable. Such being the condition of New Caledonia, it is not surprising that there should be a strong feeling in Australia against the proposal to establish a French penal settlement in the New Hebrides.

We take the following from the *Panama Star and Herald*:—"From reliable sources we gather interesting information respecting the movement recently effected on the Magdalena. It appears that General Gaitan, with two members of his family, General Francisco Antonio Acevedo, and two others, left Bogota on December 23. The six forming the party went to Honda, where they succeeded in capturing either nine or eleven steamers, with which they proceeded down the river. The capture of the vessels was effected without a shot being fired. On approaching Barranquilla they sent an emissary on in advance, who declared they had 1,700 men with them, although really they only had fifty soldiers of their party, whom they fell in with at La Gloria, and who belonged to the revolutionary force which was recently defeated at Ocaña. A meeting of officers was held in Barranquilla, where there were only some fifty National troops, at which it was resolved to hand over the town to the rebels. Accordingly no fighting occurred, and the rebels entered and established their own authorities without the slightest difficulty taking place. The same course was pursued in Carthagena, where the President of the State, Don Manuel A. Nuñez, is said to have openly declared that his sympathies were with the rebels. They also sent emissaries to the State of Magdalena, who were captured on passing through one of the frontier towns. General Benjamin Gaitan, his brother Ricardo, and General Acevedo appeared to be popular in Barranquilla. Up to the 10th of January the State of Magdalena remained faithful to the Union. The rebels captured 1,500 rifles in Barranquilla, where rumour asserted the *Stevenson Clark* and the *Isabel*, the only vessels up the river, were about to be sent down with National forces to recapture Honda and Barranquilla. This operation, however, does not seem possible in face of the events occurring in the vicinity of Bogota. No authentic news has yet been received from Bogota by way of the Atlantic. The rebels were the last to come down the river, and all their statements are unreliable. The *Porenir*, of Carthagena, of January 4 says:—'The rumours are entirely false which have been circulated in this city with respect to what has happened in Santander, Cundinamarca, and the other States. Letters and telegrams received yesterday state that the National Government is increasing in power and the revolutionists will soon be defeated. All these rumours are manufactured in Barranquilla.' On the 11th the same paper said:—'A small body of revolutionary troops, commanded by General Gaitan Obeso, have invaded this State and caused general alarm. The banks have closed, and thus almost stopped business. From the interior we gather nothing which throws light on the obscurity of the situation, and we are even in ignorance of what has occurred in the neighbouring town of Barranquilla. All we know is that it was captured without a shot being fired by either party. On the 8th General Francisco J. Palacio, Senator for the State of Bolivar, and Senor F. Fonseca Plazas arrived here, and were at once arrested by order of the Government, and placed in San Augustin barracks. Some assert that Dr. Manotas has assumed office in Barranquilla as first Vice-President, but others deny the correctness of this rumour. The truth is nothing is known, and we therefore retain his name at the head of this paper as our candidate for the Presidency. War has, however, appeared at our very doors, and it will not be long before we shall feel its effects.' Martial law has been declared, and the State of Bolivar has been subdivided into military divisions. The Militia has been called out, and by decree the President of the State assumes the command of all the forces. The sale of arms and ammunition is prohibited, and right of transit is denied to private individuals through the districts in which military operations are being carried on."

At the Stafford Assizes on Wednesday, Walter Kirton, a young man employed at Tangye's Engine Works, Birmingham, was convicted of writing a letter to his cousin, a printer, inciting him to forge tickets of admission to Aston Lower Grounds upon the occasion of the memorable Conservative demonstration last October. The representative of the Conservatives asked Mr. Justice Hawkins to deal leniently with the prisoner now that justice had been done. The prisoner was fined £25 and costs, and sentenced to three days' imprisonment.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

IRELAND.

It is stated that intelligence of so serious a character has reached the Government with regard to imminent danger of a seditious character in various parts of Ireland, that it has been resolved under no circumstances to recall any of the troops from those garrisons for duty in Egypt.

The Rev. Dr. Hammond, late Dean of Maynooth College, has been appointed successor to the late Rev. Monsignor O'Brien, the Dean of Limerick.

The Lenten pastoral, which was prepared by the late Cardinal M'Cabe a few days before his death, was read in the Roman Catholic churches of the archdiocese of Dublin on Sunday. In it his Eminence says:—"We are convinced that we speak the sentiments of the clergy and laity of this diocese when we express our indignant repudiation of the hideous attempts made for the destruction of property and innocent lives by the foul dynamite conspiracy which has in later times startled the world by its wickedness. It is said that the object aimed at by this wicked conspiracy is to achieve the independence of Ireland, and to avenge the wrongs inflicted on our unhappy country in former times. God knows that the record of these wrongs forms the blackest page of European history, but surely savage vengeance is not calculated to win God or the world to our side. Indeed, our poor afflicted country has no more deadly foes than the wretched men who give either support or countenance to schemes so detestable. Deeply as we all love Ireland, would we not gladly consent to a continuation of her greatest sorrows rather than see her redemption worked out by agencies which God and his Church must anathematise, and which every honest and generous man must reprobate? Whoever they may be who have lent themselves to the execution of those works of iniquity, of one thing we may be quite certain, they did not descend to the depths of depravity by one single bound. We may rest satisfied that the training of the secret society trained them slowly but steadily for the perpetration of crimes from which, in better days, their souls would recoil in horror. Therefore, Very Rev. Fathers, warn the youth of your charge to fly as from the face of a serpent the emissaries of those secret societies which the Church has always so earnestly condemned; and as one essential precaution against danger, implore of them to avoid drunkenness, which may prepare the way for the foulest crimes."

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Galway, the Most Rev. Dr. Carr, has issued a Lenten pastoral letter, in which he refers to some evictions for non-payment of rent in the diocese. His lordship says:—"If any words of ours could reach the agent who has the management of that estate wholly in his own hands, we would say to him, Do not drive these poor people to desperation—do not, at least, without lighting others, quenched the fires that burned in Comus before the name of Berridge was heard of in Connemara—do not foment the agrarian crimes of which you so loudly complain—do not invoke on the class you represent the indignation and the obloquy of the humane, the hatred and the malediction of the poor."

The Very Rev. Richard B. O'Brien, Roman Catholic Dean of Limerick, whose death, at the parochial residence, Newcastle West, we announced in our last issue, in early life distinguished himself by heading a demonstration in opposition to Meagher and Smith O'Brien when they visited Limerick in 1848 to preach the doctrines of the Young Ireland party. He joined the teaching staff of Allhallows College in 1846, soon after its establishment, and was subsequently appointed parish priest in Limerick. He strongly denounced the Fenian organisation, but was a prominent advocate of constitutional agitation in the direction of land reform. He was also a supporter of Home Rule in the days of Mr. Butt. In the election of Mr. W. H. O'Sullivan for Limerick he strongly supported the candidature of Mr. Kelly, a Catholic landlord, against the popular will. The late Dean drew up, nine years ago, the clerical petition to the Legislature in favour of a native Parliament, and had the documents signed by nearly all the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland. As a pulpit orator and public speaker Dean O'Brien attained eminence.

The remains of the late Cardinal M'Cabe were on Tuesday removed from the Cathedral, Marlborough-street, Dublin, where they had lain in state since Monday, to Glasnevin Cemetery for interment. The funeral was of a public character, and was very largely attended by both clergy and laity. The Lord Lieutenant was represented, and amongst those present were the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland, the Archbishop of Tuam, and almost all the members of the hierarchy. The students of the Roman Catholic colleges and schools, and the varius city societies walked in procession, as did also a considerable number of the general public.

Lord Spencer, while hunting with the Meath Hounds on Friday, was thrown from his horse, and had his shoulder dislocated. A surgeon who was taking part in the hunt put the shoulder back into its place. His Excellency then drove back to Dublin. Another accident happened to the Viceregal party on Saturday. The Lord-Lieutenant, with his escort, drove on a drag to Lord Powerscourt's residence in county Wicklow. Lady Spencer and two ladies who were with the party occupied the Viceregal carriage. The horses were frightened by a passing train, and the outriders being unable to manage them, they came into collision with a van and were somewhat injured. After a short delay the party were enabled to proceed to Powerscourt.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., speaking on Sunday at a largely attended National League meeting at Granard, county Longford, reviewed the political situation at length. He condemned the Egyptian policy of the Government. The policy of the Irish party should be as heretofore to keep itself free from both the English parties. Whatever party should get into power or might remain in power, the Irish party should keep steadily in view the one object—the interest of their country. The Redistribution Bill was safe, no matter which of the English parties came into power. The Egyptian question would doubtless come before Parliament immediately after its reassembling. What course the Irish members would take on a critical division would be a matter for them to consider and to decide upon hereafter. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., speaking at the same meeting, took a sanguine view of the prospects of the national cause. He had recently travelled a good deal throughout the country, and the opinion he had formed was that the National League was in a condition of vigorous health. It had a larger number of good working branches than the Land League ever had. He thought they might augur well for the prospects of the national cause from the despondent tone of the speeches recently delivered by the Irish Conservative leaders, Messrs. Gibson and Plunket, who had undisguisedly admitted that the Anti-National party in Ireland would have but a small share in the representation of the country under the new conditions.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

An Arab who arrived at Korti from Khartoum on Sunday appears to be Abdul Kerim, one of General Gordon's servants. The *Standard* correspondent at Korti says that he gives the following account of what occurred at the fall of Khartoum:—

"At early morning on the 27th of January, Faragh Pasha treacherously opened the gate in the southern wall. The bulk of the Mahdi's fighting men were close at hand, and these at once rushed into the town. General Gordon, hearing the confusion in the town, went out, armed with a sword and axe. He was accompanied by Ibrahim Bey, the chief clerk, and twenty men. He went towards the house of the Austrian Consul. On his way he met a party of the Mahdi's men, who fired a volley. General Gordon was shot dead. The Arabs then rushed on with their spears, and killed the chief clerk and nine of the men; the rest escaped. The Consul Nicola is alive and a prisoner; all the rest of the Europeans were killed, also most of the notables. The rest of the inhabitants fraternised with the Mahdi's men. With the exception of the firing upon General Gordon's party there was no fighting whatever. No women or children were killed, and all who surrendered and gave up their valuables were allowed to go away without harm. The Mahdi is reported to have hanged the traitor Faragh. His troops were, when the man left Khartoum, still too much occupied by the plunder of the town to think of moving forward against Gubat. Indeed, a great many of the Mahdi's best troops were killed at Metammeh. The people employed in the arsenal, for the most part Greeks, were killed by the Mahdi's men. The only person beside Consul Nicola spared and kept as prisoner was the doctor. All the rest were kept prisoners for three days and then allowed to go free. The Mahdi did not enter the town until three days after its capture, and then only remained there for a short time. Faragh Pasha was a black slave. He was given his freedom and advanced by General Gordon, who trusted him implicitly."

The correspondent of the *Times* at Korti reports that a messenger attached to the Intelligence Department has come in six days from Nasri, a place about one day's journey from Khartoum. He corroborates the news of the fall of Khartoum and the death of General Gordon. The regular soldiers, he says, were marched out of Khartoum into the Njunnit camp, some of them being killed by the Turkish troops, who fired on them as they left the town. All the Turkish soldiers were killed. In a telegram despatched from Gubat on the 12th inst., and sent on from Korti, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

"General Gordon's trusted messenger, George, a well-known Khartoum Greek merchant who for months past has been entrusted with all letters passing from or to the besieged, and who has been living on board one of the steamers sent here, states that nearly all the native stories agree that General Gordon, on learning that he was betrayed, made a rush for the magazine in the Catholic mission building. Finding that the enemy were actually in possession of that building by the treachery of Faragh, General Gordon returned to Government House, and was killed whilst trying to re-enter it. Some say that he was shot; others that he was stabbed. The Mahdi's people were admitted to Khartoum at ten o'clock on the night of the 26th of January. George adds that the rebels massacred all the white people, men, women, and children, throwing the bodies into the Nile, many of which corpses he and others saw whilst with Sir Charles Wilson's party. The families of all the men on board General Gordon's steamers were also murdered."

The *Telegraph* correspondent says that General Gordon clearly anticipated his fate, for he wrote a number of farewell letters during the month of January. These were sent off in a mail bag on board the steamer, and given to George, who handed them over to Sir Charles Wilson on the 21st of January.

Among the letters were one for his sister, and others for his brother, for Captain Brocklehurst, Lord Wolseley, and Sir Charles Wilson. There were also five complete monthly diaries of the siege of Khartoum, narrating all the events that had taken place since Colonel Stewart left him. In his letter to Sir Charles Wilson, General Gordon wrote that he hoped, by God's will, the English would arrive in time to save him and others, but feared they would be too late; that he knew he was being betrayed, but was powerless to prevent it. His information was that Khartoum was to be surrendered on the 19th of January to the Mahdi. He could get away if he wished to run; but refused to go, and would remain to the last, as he would not permit himself to be taken prisoner. There was nothing left but death.

It is added that Khasm El Mous, the commandant with the steamers at Gubat, states that even had the English got to Khartoum a month earlier they would have been too late to save Gordon; for the two traitors had committed themselves, and would never have awaited our arrival, as they feared that General Gordon would punish them. The people of Khartoum had despaired of ever seeing English soldiers, and tried to make the best terms they could.

The despatch contains further an interesting record of events at Gubat:—

"We still have outpost firing daily. The enemy's videttes are now visible across the river. They are gradually drawing around us. Lord Charles Beresford makes daily trips up or down the river, going five or ten miles in the steamer *Safia* to prevent the enemy from fortifying the bank and to secure supplies. A company of British soldiers and 200 of General Gordon's men accompany these expeditions. Upon the 7th we destroyed a well-made unoccupied fort to the north-east of Metammeh. The same day a foraging party secured twenty-five cattle and a number of sheep and goats on the south-west bank. Two of our natives were wounded and several of the enemy killed. On the 8th, seven miles up, our men saw another fort, and secured several hundred goats, besides wood and supplies. There was a skirmish, but nobody was wounded on our side. On the 9th the Arabs in Metammeh were reported to be drilling, and much firing of guns and beating of tom-toms took place. Nurengia, the Berber Emir, is said to command them.

"On the 10th a spy reported the rebels to be marching down both banks from Khartoum to reinforce Metammeh. They bring six guns and are several thousand strong. The Mahdi has written to Lord Wolseley, telling him to retire. The Mahdi has ordered all the tribes to assemble and surround us. Those on the east bank are to build a fort opposite our camp. The Royal Sussex have been sent to occupy an island opposite our position, and to brace up General Gordon's men now there, as the Arabs appear upon the east mainland, and the channel is fordable. On the 11th the usual outpost affairs came off. A guardsman was wounded. On the 12th, at noon, a convoy was sighted, and General Buller arrived with one convoy and five companies of the Royal Irish. Two were left at Abu Klea. The men had marched from Korti, but looked in splendid condition. The *Safia* is docked in a mud-bank, repairing her hull for the first time. A number of soldiers slept outside the fort. The enemy in the evening fired off rifles and bombs, celebrating something or other. On the 12th the *Safia* went up river seven miles to destroy a fort. A large foraging party followed along the west bank. It seems that the Mahdi desired to come down here in person; but Abdmullah claimed the post and the right of attacking us here.

Another correspondent says that Nurengia, commanding at Metammeh, sent recently to the Mahdi for guns and ammunition, saying that he could not fight the English with swords and spears. The Mahdi replied: "Do not fight; wait awhile. If God will, I will come and destroy the infidels." It is reported that a large body of dervishes and Hassaniyeh tribesmen are threatening to come down upon the wells between Korti and Gakdul, and so to intercept our line of communication with General Buller's force.

On Thursday, the 5th inst., a court-martial sat at Gubat to try three captains of the steamers. Two deserted with Hamby Bey, and one was condemned to death for designedly wrecking the steamer *Bordein*, but was recommended to mercy for subsequent good conduct in bringing Stuart-Wortley's row-boat in. The others were acquitted.

Lord Wolseley telegraphs from Korti, under date of the 17th inst., that a lengthy skirmish took place on the morning of the 13th inst. between a British convoy of sick and wounded on its way from Gubat to Abu Klea and a rebel convoy of men, guns, and ammunition, going from Khartoum to Metammeh. The fighting lasted an hour and a half, when the enemy retreated, the British Light Camel Corps, on its way from Abu Klea to Gubat, coming up towards the close of the skirmish. Our casualties were one private killed and one non-commissioned officer and four men wounded. All the sick and wounded, including Sir H. Stewart, are doing well, and arrived at Gakdul on the 17th inst.

The *Standard* correspondent at Korti gives the following account of the fight:—

"A despatch has been received from General Buller saying that a convoy of wounded under Colonel Talbot, while marching from Gubat to Gakdul on the 13th inst., when about nine miles from Gubat, met a rebel force, which he estimated at 5,000 strong, on its way to reinforce the Arabs at Metammeh.

"Colonel Talbot at once formed up the escort of the convoy to resist an attack, but the enemy were in far too great strength for him to assume the offensive, hampered as he was by the wounded.

"The enemy opened fire, but when a few shots had been exchanged, the Light Camel Division, on its way up to Gubat, arrived upon the scene.

"They at once began skirmishing with the enemy, but after some little time the rebels continued on their way to Metammeh without offering further molestation.

"They had with them some guns and many camels, and the fact that they should pass without attacking so small a body shows that either they were under stringent orders to push on to Metammeh without fighting, or that the result of the late battles has inspired them with a wholesome fear of the fighting powers of our troops.

"Our loss in the affair was one man killed."

A *Times* telegram says that Colonel Talbot would have attacked the rebels had he not been hampered by the presence of the wounded.

The following from the War Office was sent for publication on Thursday morning:—

"Lord Wolseley reports from Korti last night that a despatch received from Major-General Buller from Abu Klea reports that he evacuated Gubat on the morning of the 14th inst., and reached Abu Klea on the 15th, without any attempt by the enemy to interfere with his movements, and that he now awaits instructions at Abu Klea. Major-General Buller also reports that the health and spirits of his men are excellent, and that the sick and wounded are doing well; but Lord Wolseley regrets to add that Sir Herbert Stewart's case was less hopeful, as his fever had increased."

The correspondent of the *Times* at Korti, telegraphing on Thursday morning, states that the retreat was rendered advisable by the heavy loss certain to be incurred in the taking of Metammeh, and by the fact that the fall of Khartoum has set free the Mahdi's army, besides supplying him with a large number of soldiers drilled by General Gordon, many guns, and several thousand rounds of ammunition. The small force at Gubat was in a false position since the fall of Khartoum, having been deprived of its objective. The Mahdi might have invested Gubat, bringing heavy artillery to bear on the defenders, and he is said to be coming down the river with a force of 65,000 men; but this number is believed to be much exaggerated. Holding the wells as we now do, the rebels cannot move an army along the desert route.

The retreat is thus described by the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*:—

"The enemy at Metammeh failed to notice that we were evacuating our camp, and were certainly unaware of the movement until several hours had elapsed. Even then they failed to make any use of their opportunity, and only sent two or three dozen scouts to observe what was going on. No attempt was made to interfere with us in any way, nor did the rebels come within striking distance. The march on the first day was a particularly quiet one. At night a halt was called, the force having then reached within ten miles of the camp at Abu Klea.

"The men for the most part having been unused to marching for some time past, it was deemed advisable by General Buller to set them only a limited task to perform for the first day. The utmost precautions were taken throughout the night to guard against surprise. A zareba was formed, and advance sentries were thrown out, but nothing occurred to disturb our night's rest. Next morning the whole force arrived at Abu Klea, to the intense surprise of the little garrison in the camp. The two steamers which had been of such service to us during our stay in the camp of Abu Kru have not been destroyed. Some portions of the machinery were removed by Lord Charles Beresford, so that the vessels, for all navigable purposes, are entirely useless to the Mahdi, as he has no means of replacing the machinery taken. For the present we remain here; but an immediate movement of the whole force upon Gakdul is imminent, the water supply at Abu Klea being insufficient to maintain such large numbers. Indeed, the abandonment of Abu Klea follows almost as a matter of course upon the abandonment of El Gubat. A reason no longer exists for holding these wells."

Another correspondent suggests that General Buller may advance to Berber and join hands with General Brackenbury's column; and he adds that the marching strength of the column from Gubat was nearly 1,600 rank-and-file, with over 300 Egyptians and Soudanese. There were 1,100 camels, of which about 700 were required for commissariat, water, and ammunition.

The Howeiyat Wells are nearly exhausted, and it has consequently been determined to move the camp to the Hagaga Wells, some fourteen miles to the south, where water is said to be plentiful. A large convoy of sick and wounded, under the command of Colonel Talbot, reached Gakdul on the 17th from Gubat. Among the wounded are General Stewart, Major Poe, and Lieutenant Crutchley. A detachment of wounded, consisting of seven officers and forty-six men, have been sent down the Nile from Korti in a steamer and a nuggar towed by it.

The *World*, referring to a statement in the *Times* as to General Gordon's despatches, says:—"Gordon sent home a long despatch explaining that he sent Stewart and his companions away because he despaired of relief. But as this despatch was full of expressions the reverse of complimentary to the powers that be, it was never published. Also, so far from only disjointed messages of a few words having latterly been received from Gordon, Lord Wolseley quite lately received a long communication of nearly a thousand words; but this also was not of a nature to make the authorities desire its publication."

A correspondent writes to the *Daily News*:—"The way in which press messages from the seat of war have been 'edited' by the authorities on the spot tends possibly to the fact, widely rumoured in well-informed quarters at the present moment, that the whole text of General Gordon's last message was not officially made public in England. The message as published was, 'Khartoum all right. Can hold on for years.' It is now said that these words were preceded by, 'What are you coming for? I have not asked for you.'"

General Gordon, among other qualities, was an unusually punctual correspondent. Rarely an opportunity passed without his sending home a letter either to his brother-in-law, the Rev. R. H. Barnes, or to his sister, Miss Gordon. These manuscript fragments are, the *World* says, to be collected and arranged shortly in a little volume.

In a letter to the *Times* a correspondent mentions an obligation which he hopes the Government will not shirk. He says:—

"When General Gordon accepted the mission to Khartoum, it is not as generally known as it ought to be that he did so at a great pecuniary sacrifice. He had just accepted an honourable command at the hands of the King of the Belgians, who settled upon his heirs the sum of £7,000. That engagement was dissolved when General Gordon placed himself at the disposal of his own Government. I ask, and I am sure every Englishman will agree with me in the affirmative, is not the Government morally bound to fulfil the stipulation which the King of the Belgians generously and voluntarily accepted? I well recollect that when, on the last day that General Gordon passed in London, objections were raised by some of his friends to his going to the Congo, he turned to me and said, 'If I died now as a simple British officer I should not leave a penny, but if I am killed on the Congo my heirs will benefit.' I repeat that the Government would be taking but a slight step towards expressing their obligations to General Gordon if they were to accept the same responsibility as the King of the Belgians contracted; and, as a further hint to them, I would add that they have only to carry out the provision of the will which General Gordon made the night before he left London for Brussels."

The following is stated to be the translation of a document drawn up in Arabic by an emissary of the Mahdi, at the present time residing in England:—

"Having read in the newspapers, and having heard it very generally asserted, that the English nation is convinced that it would be impossible to negotiate for peace with the Mahdi—the Mahdi being from the very nature of his mission precluded from any such negotiation—I affirm that the contrary is the case, on this account, that the Mahdi is bound to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet. And there is no other path for him; for should he lean in any other direction the Muslims will not accept him as Mahdi, for the Mahdi and his partisans know well that the Prophet entered into pacific negotiations with the idolatrous Koreyah, who were not even 'Ahlu'l Kitab"—that is, sharing with the Mus-

lims in the worship of the Creator, like the Christian nations. This he carried even to the point that when Ali, in writing out the conditions of the treaty, had put the words 'This is the agreement made by Mohammed, the Envoy of God,' and the Koreysh objected to the expression, saying, 'We do not believe in this word Envoy,' and Ali still insisted, the Prophet took the paper and effaced with his own hand the words 'Envoy of God' (Rasul Allah), and commanded Ali to write 'Mohammed, son of Abdallah,' instead. The Prophet also made a treaty of peace with the Christian Nejran, and after the Prophet several of the Caliphs have made treaties with the Christian Powers. For this reason it is impossible for the Mahdi, in his character of Mahdi, to refuse a peace which is to put an end to bloodshed, provided that such a peace shall benefit the Muslims. His mission is to spread civilisation in the Muslim world, and not ruin and destruction. The newspapers also describe the Mahdi as an ignorant barbarian, with whom to be at peace is impossible. But I would point out that a man who rose up alone and has united all these different tribes, and who has maintained the defence of his religion and the freedom of his native land up to this very moment in virtue of the Mahdiar mission, which is based on the diffusion of justice and equality, cannot be called either barbaric or ignorant. The Muslims in all parts of the world are in momentary expectation of the Mahdi's appearance, and when they are in affliction one hears them continually saying the words, 'Mata yathar el Mahdi?' that is 'When will the Mahdi appear?' I may even say that the silence of the Muslims and their immobility under oppression and tyranny are by no means due to ignorance of their rights, but because they are waiting for a Mahdi who shall deliver them from every evil. And the fact of making war against him who has undertaken so sublime a mission, in which lies the sole hope of the Muslim world, must pierce all Muslim hearts and drive them all to a general rising. Surely the British nation will be too wise to open gates which are the gates of a flood that would overwhelm the human race."

The Queen has intimated to Sir Saul Samuel, the Agent-General of New South Wales, her acceptance of the offer of colonial troops to assist in the expedition for Souakim, and her gracious thanks for the readiness with which the offer was tendered.

Prince Hassan, the Khedive's brother, has, it is stated, been requested by the English Government, at Lord Wolseley's suggestion, to accompany the British expedition in the character of Civil Commissioner, and his Highness has expressed his willingness to take part in the operations, on condition that the Soudan be constituted an autonomous province of Egypt, and that an army of 3,000 men, exclusively Mahommedans, shall be formed by him.

It is now definitely settled that the Indian contingent shall consist of one regiment of cavalry, four of infantry, and one company of sappers and miners. The 9th Bengal Cavalry (late Hodson's Horse), the cavalry regiment selected, has already started from the Punjaub, and will embark at Bombay at the beginning of next week. The 28th Bombay Native Infantry will go direct from Poona to Bombay. The last announced addition to the force is the 12th Madras Infantry. As before mentioned, Brigadier-General Hodson is to command the brigade. His staff consists of Major R. Stewart, of the Royal Artillery, Assistant-Adjutant and Quartermaster-General; Major Norman Stewart, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant and Quartermaster-General; Major A. Pearson, of the Royal Artillery, Intelligence Officer; Major J. Cook, Brigade Major; and Captain C. Muir, Aide-de-Camp.

Much enthusiasm was on Thursday displayed on the departure of the 1st Battalion of the Coldstreams for the seat of war. An enormous crowd assembled in the early morning near Wellington Barracks, from which place the battalion marched to Westminster Pier, where they embarked in two steamers for Gravesend. Westminster-bridge and the Embankment were crowded by an enthusiastic throng, who gave them many hearty cheers. Here and there upon the river banks, as well as upon the bridges, crowds of people assembled, and cheered the Coldstreams as they passed. Arrived at Gravesend, the troops were transferred to the *Manora* transport, which about three o'clock sailed for the East.

The Queen on Thursday inspected the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards prior to their departure on Friday morning for the Soudan. The Battalion were drawn up in the Grand Quadrangle of Windsor Castle, and Her Majesty having taken her seat at a window, the troops marched past. The officers having been conducted to the Queen, Her Majesty addressed them. Confident that the Grenadiers would ever maintain the honour and reputation of British soldiers, her Majesty said she relied on their equalling the glorious deeds of those who had lately fought in the distant land to which they were going. The Queen said her thoughts and prayers would go with them and their brave comrades. On the officers returning to the Battalion, Her Majesty's address was repeated to them, and hearty cheers for the Queen were then given by the troops, who afterwards marched back to barracks, whence they proceeded yesterday (Friday) morning to Gravesend to embark for Souakim.

THE GLADSTONE CABINET PUDDING.

Of Gladstone jam and Harcourt sauce one ounce,
A spoonful add of Dilke's unrivalled bounce,
A dozen of Trevelyan's finest gushes,
A pound of Bismarck's scorn and England's blushes,
Of affidavits false a bundle take;
Upon them lightly twenty pledges break,
Of indecision half a hogshead pour,
Of indiscretion take the same, or more;
Of milk and water weak take firkins six,
With half a quart of brag and bluster mix—
Then let Lord Granville take the whole and stir it,
Shunning, like poison, the least drop of spirit.
A dainter dish has never yet been seen
To set before the people and the Queen.
—*Morning Post.* ARCULUS.

WHY BURN GAS?—Adopt Chappuis' reflectors. They supersede gas in daytime, and promote health, comfort, and economy. They are now in great use in private houses. For prospectus address two stamps to (J. B.) Chappuis, patentee and manufacturer, 69, Fleet-street, London.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The House of Lords assembled at half-past four o'clock. There was a large attendance of Peers on both sides, and the Prince of Wales was in his place on the cross-benches. The Ladies' Galleries were filled to their utmost capacity, and the Strangers' Gallery was also crowded. The Princess of Wales and one of her daughters were in the Royal Gallery.

Lord GRANVILLE rose, in an anxiously attentive House, and informed their Lordships that he thought it right to lay some papers on the table and make a statement respecting affairs which had caused so much sympathy and regret. Having paid a tribute of regret for General Gordon and of admiration for his services, the noble Lord expressed his belief that the question of finance in connection with the Egyptian difficulty was approaching a conclusion in a way which would be of advantage to Egypt, consistent with public engagements, and honourable to this country. Three weeks ago the Government hoped for a speedy, practical settlement of the military question. At that time they were momentarily expecting a meeting between General Wilson and General Gordon; but an act of treachery had prevented the accomplishment of that expectation. Treachery was a danger that had hung over Gordon for weeks and months, and the Government felt that it could not have been averted by any act of theirs. The route followed by our troops in marching towards Khartoum had been chosen, for its military and political advantages, after much consideration and on the best advice. The first object of the expedition was to rescue Gordon and those to whom he was in honour bound, and the next to create some form of local government. He denied that the Government had ever shut the door against negotiations with the Mahdi, but he asked what advance had the Mahdi ever made in that direction? He referred to the departure of the reinforcements for the Soudan and the orders for the construction of the railway, and stated that full discretion was to be left with Lord Wolseley as to the time at which the attack was to be made on Khartoum. In conclusion, he expressed his opinion that the offers from the colonies to assist the mother country with military contingents would have the best moral effect.

Lord SALISBURY observed that their Lordships met that day in a juncture of affairs the like of which the oldest among them did not recollect. He did not know what was contained in the papers which Lord Granville had laid on the table, and he would not, in the imperfect state of their information on that head, anticipate a discussion which must inevitably be held as to the course which that House ought to take. We were isolated in Europe; in Asia there were dark and sinister rumours; and insults had been brought upon us by Ministerial blundering in the colonies. All those things no doubt would be considered by their Lordships on an early occasion. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs seemed anxious to show that it had been impossible for the Government to relieve Gordon, but having declared that the Nile route was impossible, they adopted it when the waters of the river had already fallen. There were not only sympathy and regret, but there was burning and bitter indignation in the minds of the people of this country; and unless they had lost all control over the conduct of public affairs, they would require a reckoning for the lives which had been sacrificed to the squabbles of the Cabinet and the exigencies of party. Lord Granville had told them that there was to be a fresh expedition to Souakim; but what security was offered to them that there would not be a repetition of useless slaughter? He did not deny that the re-establishment of our prestige and the punishment of our opponents were imperative necessities of the moment: but there was much beyond these objects. There were British interests to secure, there was good government for the place itself, there was safety from foreign and external influences hostile to British power which it was our duty to insure, and he was certain the country would visit with bitter censure those who should make fruitless the vast efforts and terrible sacrifices which it was called upon to make.

Lord JERSEY complained that in the remarks of Lord Granville there was no indication of the policy of the Government, or what they intended to do when Khartoum was in the hands of our troops. Lord MORLEY, replying to a question from Lord HARDWICKE, said that in a telegram, received by the Government from Lord Wolseley on Thursday night, they were informed that General Buller had thought it right to evacuate Gubat.

Their Lordships rose at ten minutes past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The House of Commons, which was well filled, was occupied for some time by notices of motion. Among others Mr. J. K. CROSS gave notice that on Monday he will move the resolution rendered necessary by the proposed employment of Indian troops in the Soudan, at which there was much cheering from the opposition benches. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice that he will move for the appointment of Select Committees to consider the Army and Navy and the miscellaneous Estimates. Sir S. NORTHCOTE, in coming forward to give notice of the Vote of Censure, was received with loud and prolonged cheering from his followers. The motion proposes that an Address shall be presented to Her Majesty humbly representing that the course pursued by the Government in reference to the affairs of Egypt and the Soudan has involved great sacrifice of valuable lives and a heavy expenditure without any beneficial results, and renders it imperatively necessary in the interests of the British Empire and the Egyptian people that the Government should distinctly recognise and take decided measures to fulfil the special responsibilities incumbent on them to ensure good and stable Government in Egypt and those portions of the Soudan which are necessary for its security. Asked subsequently to fix a day for the motion, Mr. GLADSTONE deferred giving a decided answer until the next day, when he would be better able to say when the House would have before it all the information necessary for forming a judgment. In regard to the general course of business Mr. Gladstone said it was not possible to make arrangements for Bills of first-class importance until it was seen what progress would be made with the Seats Bill—but under any circumstances the Home Secretary would bring in a Crofters' Bill, and Bills dealing with Australian Confederation, the Law of Lunacy, Extradition, and appointing a Scotch Secretary of State would be introduced in the other House. At question time Lord HARTINGTON, in answer to questions from Sir S. NORTHCOTE and others, said it was true that General Buller had withdrawn from Gubat to Abu Klea, and it was possible that the movement might be continued to Merawi and Korti. He read also a telegram just received from General Brackenbury, and with regard to General Stewart he said the latest accounts were not so favourable, as he was suffering from a certain amount of fever. As to the communications which had passed with Lord Wolseley in reference to this movement, he deferred giving any answer until next day.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in moving that papers relating to affairs in the Soudan lie on the table, took the opportunity of making a statement on the objects and character of the military measures now being carried out by Lord Wolseley to meet the change of circumstances resulting from the fall of Khartoum. Lord Wolseley, he said, had desired to know, after receiving intelligence of that event, whether he was to shape these measures on the supposition that he was to proceed to overthrow the power of the Mahdi or not, and the Government, after full consideration, had decided that Her Majesty's forces should be used to overthrow the Mahdi. Among the measures which would be necessary, he enumerated operations against Osman Digna, the opening of the road from Souakim to Berber, the construction of a railway, and probably an autumnal campaign. This indication of military policy was received with cheers from both sides above the gangways, mingled with a few expressions of dissent from below the gangway on the Ministerial side, and Mr. Gladstone proceeded to point out that this decision was rendered necessary by the engagements we had entered into towards General Gordon's friends, by the necessity of restoring order, putting down the slave-trade, and doing what we could to rescue the Egyptian garrisons, and also by the general consideration of the safety of Egypt. As to a peaceful settlement, the Government were of opinion that to make overtures to the Mahdi at present would be to defeat their own object, but he added that Lord Wolseley had been instructed to forward home any communications which might be received from the Mahdi. Sir S. NORTHCOTE said a few words in praise of General Gordon's great qualities, also recognising the valour and discipline of the troops, and congratulating the House on the spirit of affection and attachment which had been manifested by the colonies; after which the motion was agreed to.

Sir C. DILKE then moved that the House should *pro formâ* go into Committee on the Seats Bill, and categorically described the amendments which it was proposed to make in the measure, especially in the schedules. He mentioned that the Boundary Commissioners were unanimous in their recommendations, and that the Government had decided to accept the amendments which they had suggested. After a few words from Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Mr. S. HILL, Sir H. D. WOLFF, and others, Mr. GLADSTONE announced that, as the Government considered it their duty to do all they could to expedite the measure, the House would be asked to assent to precedence being given to the Bill on those days when it was set down on the paper. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. TORRENS moved the second reading of the Waterworks Clauses Act (1847) Amendment Bill, the principal object of which is to define the meaning of "net annual value," as applied to water rating. Sir H. HOLLAND opposed the Bill, and, defending the London water companies in the past, contended that so confiscatory a measure was not needed. The Bill, he said, was a direct negative of the decision given in the action brought by Mr. Dobbs against the Grand Junction Water Company, and would repeal the numerous Acts under which a large amount of capital had been invested. Sir W. HARCOURT, speaking in support of the Bill, pointed out that the measure provided a fair assessment of value for those who were least able to defend themselves against an improper and unfair assessment. Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH contended that the subject ought to be dealt with by the Government rather than by a private member; and after some further conversation, in which Mr. E. CLARKE suggested that the Bill might be amended so as to be acceptable to all parties, it was read a second time without a division.

Some other business having been transacted, the House adjourned at twenty minutes to eight o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Seventeen peers were present on Tuesday at Holyrood at the election of representatives in Parliament in the places of the late Earls of Dundonald and Morton. When the roll was called, there was the usual protest with regard to the Earldom of Mar. Following is the result of the voting, in which proxies are allowed:—The Earl of Northesk, 41 votes; the Earl of Orkney, 39; the Earl of Lindsay, 10; the Earl of Dundonald, 2; the Earl of Dysart, 2; the Earl of Airlie, 1; Lord Falkland, 1. The Lord Clerk Register then declared the Earls of Northesk and Orkney duly elected. Professor Flint pronounced the Benediction, and the proceedings terminated. When the votes were being taken Lord Northesk said, "I vote for the Earl of Orkney and myself." The Earl of Orkney said, "I vote for the Earl of Northesk and the Earl of Orkney."

The members of the Oxford Conservative Club and a large number of the newly-formed University Habitation of the Primrose League, held their annual dinner on Monday night, at the Clarendon Assembly Rooms, under the presidency of Mr. A. W. Hall, who formerly represented the city in Parliament, and who is now the Conservative candidate. The toast of "The Conservative Candidates for the City and Central Division of the County" was responded to by Mr. A. W. Hall and Lord Valentia, that of "The Conservative Cause" by Lord Abingdon and the Hon. Claude Hay, and that of "The Primrose League" by Sir Algernon Borthwick. Several other toasts were given.

Mr Chamberlain, acknowledging a resolution from the Oswestry Working Men's Liberal Association, writes:—"I rejoice to think that, by the reforms already passed and those now in progress, you will shortly enter on the full enjoyment of political rights which have been so long withheld from you. It will thus rest entirely with the people themselves what legislation shall be adopted to secure the welfare of the whole population. I have recently had opportunities of suggesting the direction which such legislation ought to take, but it is for the constituencies themselves to decide how far my proposals are just and should be carried into effect."

Mr. JOSEPH COWEN, M.P., addressed his constituents in Newcastle on Saturday evening. Observing that the Government took office pledged to a direct retrenchment of expenditure at home and of liabilities abroad, he maintained that taxation was now heavier, expenditure greater, and the revenue less elastic. A mysterious fatalism had doomed the Cabinet to catch up the dropped links in the policy of their profligate predecessors. No modern Administration had, in so short a space of time, made such additions to the Empire. They had proclaimed the entire coast, not already appropriated, from Port Elizabeth to Delagoa Bay to be under British protection. If, by a prevaricating diplomacy, they had lost Angra Pequeña, they had made amends by assuming legal dominion over the lower valley of the Niger, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Pondoland, Zululand, and the Amatonga country—if they had not positively taken, they had intimated they would prevent others doing so. Ours, too, was the southern seaboard of New Guinea, and the Louisdale and adjacent islands, while the Queen had been advised to accept the suzerainty of the lands ceded by the sultans of North Borneo to a company of British adventurers. They had resumed the construction of the railway towards Candahar, which in a fit of party pique they pulled up. The Ameer of Afghanistan was as much a British as the Emirs of Bokhara and of Khiva were Russian vassals. In Egypt we were absolute. We were there, and there our authority, if not our arms, all lachrymose vaticinations to the contrary notwithstanding, would abide. He proceeded, after criticising the results of our policy in Egypt and the Soudan:—

"If the Cabinet will screw up their courage to take a clear, consistent, and decisive course, both in Egypt proper and in the Soudan, they will find behind them, not a party, but the nation. There are differences of opinion among us whether we should, or should not, have gone to Egypt; but there can be no difference that, while there, we should do the work we have undertaken effectually; that the fate of our emissary—one of the noblest spirits that ever shed lustre on our race—should be ascertained, and, if he is living, rescued; that, while repudiating a war of conquest or revenge, adequate security should be taken, by holding Khartoum if deemed essential, for the defence of the Egyptians from their threatening neighbours; and that the waterway between the two sections of our empire should not be at the mercy of other and perhaps unfriendly Powers."

Mr. Cowen admitted that away from Ireland the Government had displayed in domestic politics a grasp and sagacity absent from their treatment of colonial and foreign questions. Abroad they were guided by a tortuous and mutable course, and indecision was inevitable. At home they regulated their action by settled principles, and vacillation was difficult. They knew what they wanted to do, and they did it. In the matter of Parliamentary reform they had done their work well; and the Government scheme, though not ideally perfect, did intentional injustice to no class, and it would work without perceptible friction.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON spoke on Monday night at a dinner given by the Wood-green Branch of the Middlesex Conservative Association. That which, he said, brought gloom and apprehension to the minds of those who studied public affairs was that the danger that we were now facing was one of a series of difficulties which were impending over us in every quarter of the globe, and if now we did not face it with determination and with resolution, and did not successfully extract ourselves from the difficulty in which we were involved, other nations would take advantage of it. Therefore it was essential that the Government should tell us clearly what they intended to do, and assure the country they were actuated by sincerity of purpose. Mr. Gladstone could talk, but he could not act. He was a magnificent electioneering agent. The power of speech which made him so formidable on the platform was his curse and stumblingblock in the council chamber and the House of Commons; for what did it matter what he said to-day when to-morrow he could explain that he did not mean what he had said, and could do so with such skill that he could carry a majority with him? It seemed to him (Lord George) perfectly clear that it was the duty of the Conservative party, as soon as Parliament met, to move a vote of censure on the Government, not for the purpose of impeding their present action, but to censure them for their past inaction and blindness. They must purge the Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone's policy was ruining the character of the country. When the income tax was increased to 1s. in the pound, then the nation would understand the price they would have to pay for a Radical Government.

Mr. R. BOURKE, M.P., addressed a meeting of his constituents at the Town Hall, Lynn, on Monday night. He said that he felt no fear of the coming democracy of England, because he believed it would insist upon being ruled by a Government more in sympathy with national honour and sentiment, more thoroughly conservative of everything good and great in our Constitution, and more alive to the rapidly developing destinies of the British race than were the eminent men who had for the last five years brought such confusion and discredit upon the empire. What was the policy of the Government with regard to the future? They had often asked that question, but had only received evasive replies; and the sad effect of the shuffling and indecision had been that England had sacrificed valuable lives and had spent millions of money without any beneficial results. The only policy which could be tolerated was one which he regretted as much as any one, but it had been forced upon us by the blunders of the Ministry. If we were obliged to make ourselves responsible for a settled government in the Soudan, it was because the British Government had failed to deal with a revolt in the first instance which threatened Egypt with serious trouble. If Lord Dufferin's advice had been taken all would have gone well; the railway to Berber would have been laid, peace would have been established, a great and noble future for Equatorial Africa would have been secured, and the British occupation of

Egypt would now, in all probability, have been at an end. In conclusion, he asked what statesman, if he studied his own peace of mind, would wish to assume office at the present moment. Downing-street just now must be as agreeable an abode as the Inferno described by Dante.

Mr. W. T. Marriott, in supporting a resolution condemning the Egyptian policy of the Government, at the annual meeting of the Brighton Conservative and Constitutional Association on Monday night, said he could not point to any period during his life when the country was in such a state of difficulty as at present. The mistakes of Mr. Gladstone almost passed belief. He had resisted all advice, and, by pursuing his own course, had brought disaster on the country and dishonour on the Ministry. Whereas, if he acted upon General Gordon's advice, this brave man would have been safe; not a soldier would now be in the Soudan, and Khartoum would belong to Egypt. He contended that the policy of the Government throughout had been one of wickedness and iniquity, and he said he greatly wondered that the English people took matters so quietly and did not rise up as they would have done a few years ago when their honour was at stake.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, addressing a large Conservative gathering at York on Monday night, said that Lord Beaconsfield had left to the present Government a legacy of peace at home and abroad. England was now at the very crisis of her fate, and at any moment the forces of Russia might seize almost the chief political and military position in Central Asia. We must make British influence supreme over Egypt and the Suez Canal, our allies must be protected, Russia must be kept out of Afghanistan, and friendship should be cultivated with Germany.

Mr. T. W. Boord, M.P., addressing a meeting of his constituents at Greenwich on Monday night, severely criticised the conduct of the Government, which had led to the present disastrous situation in the Soudan. The Prime Minister, he remarked, had been in the habit of talking about "blood-guiltiness." What was to be said of the fact of the sands of the desert being drenched with the blood of English soldiers and harmless and innocent Egyptians and Arabs? All this had resulted from the policy—or want of policy—of Her Majesty's Government. They were always too late. The Government always "rescued" too late and "retired" too soon. The result now was that the whole work had to be done all over again, and something more. We must now go to Khartoum and put down the rebellion, for peace must be established in the Soudan, in order that peace might be secured in Egypt.

Sir Farrer Herschell, the Solicitor-General, speaking at a Liberal dinner at South Shields on Monday night, said he was not ashamed to admit that mistakes had been made by the Government. If they judged justly, they would come to the conclusion that they were mistakes that anybody might have made. It was very easy to be wise after the event. That was a kind of wisdom they could all possess, inasmuch as it was easily acquired. From the first moment they began to meddle with the affairs of Egypt, and to meddle with her finances, and when they asked to have one ruler deposed and another put in his place, in the years 1877-78-79, he had the gravest misgivings. He had these misgivivings, because in taking the first step they were assuming responsibilities of a nature such as they were not likely to know where the end would be. The Government were anxious to bring the matter to an end. They were not fighting for any wild desire for revenge or for any desire to add territory, but simply that there should be a termination to it consistent with the welfare, the honour, and the safety of the country.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice was present on Tuesday night at a meeting of the Clapham Liberal Association, and in acknowledging a vote of confidence in the Government, referred to affairs in Egypt. He said the general policy of the Government with regard to Egypt remained unaltered—namely, that they were not pursuing a selfish policy. All along they had recognised their ties and obligations to foreign Powers, and with the most recent stages of the question they had remained true to their guiding lines of finance, and whenever the time came for stating them to the House, it would be found that they had sedulously cultivated the general principles which Mr. Gladstone had always adhered to and enunciated. Referring to the unexpected fall of Khartoum and to the fate of General Gordon, the noble Lord said new difficulties had been introduced, which had formed the subject of consideration at the recent Cabinet meetings, the result of which would shortly have to be communicated to Parliament; but in the meantime they must feel assured that, whatever the military necessities of the situation might be, there would be no wish in the mind of any one of the members of Her Majesty's Government unnecessarily or unduly to prolong the period of military operations in Egypt.

Lord Ripon was entertained at dinner by the Liverpool Reform Club on Tuesday night. He said we should altogether reject the demand for a war of revenge in the Soudan. He hoped the Government would steadily adhere to the refusal hitherto given by them in favour of annexation. While in Egypt let us do our duty to defend and consolidate it, but reject the michievous policy of annexing either Egypt or the Soudan.

Major Paget, M.P. for Mid-Somerset, addressing a meeting at Weston-super-Mare on Tuesday night, said the Conservative party in its patriotism and as a matter of duty would vote all the supplies required for the Soudan campaign; but when they had assisted the Liberal party out of their difficulty, it would be their duty to face them and to call for an account from those whose vacilllating policy had caused the difficulties. The Conservative policy of the future was peace with honour, and their domestic policy would carry peace and happiness into the homes of the most humble. The Conservative Government in 1868 largely enfranchised the people; and if they could trust the people then there was no reason why they should fear them under the extended franchise in 1885. The time had come for moderate men to throw in their lot with the Conservative party. A resolution was passed condemning the policy of the Government.

Sir Henry Gordon has sent the following acknowledgment of a resolution passed by the Greenwich Conservative Association:—"On the part of my sisters and myself, I have to thank the Greenwich Conservative Association for their very kind resolution of the 12th inst., conveying their condolence and sympathy upon the occasion of the death of my brother, Major-General Gordon. I must be excused making any remarks upon the characteristics of his character. Others must judge of those; but I cannot help observing that our grief has been much enhanced by the fact that General Gordon has been for many months subjected to an anxiety beyond human belief in endeavouring at any personal sacrifice to save the lives of the nobles and community in Khartoum. In this, his whole aim, he failed, and he and his faithful followers have, through internal treachery, been massacred by the Soudanese, the very people of whom General Gordon had said, 'I would give my life for these poor people of the Soudan—how can I help feeling for them?'"

Lord Dunraven addressed a large Conservative meeting on Wednesday night at Oldham. He alluded to the Russian advance in Central Asia, and said that Russia was now in a position to invade our Indian possessions. Our policy with regard to Egypt had been most abominable, and the disasters there had been brought on because the Government could not make up their mind. They were now going to ask for £2,000,000; but the expenditure might be £50,000,000.

A deputation from Ulster waited upon Sir Stafford Northcote on Thursday, to explain their views with reference to the Distribution of Seats Bill so far as it affects the North of Ireland. They urged that the Bill assigned to Ireland an excessive number of members in proportion to the population, and in comparison with the sister kingdoms; that it reduced the number of representatives of urban constituencies in Ireland from thirty-six to sixteen, thus diminishing by twenty the representatives of the commercial, manufacturing, and artisan interests, as distinguished from land and agriculture; and granted to Leinster, as compared with the other provinces, an undue proportion of representative power. Sir Stafford, in reply, said he would take care that the information given him should be carefully considered, but it was not in his power to say anything more definite at present, and he would rather not answer the question as to whether, in his opinion, the number of Irish members should be increased or reduced.

There have been but few changes since Parliament adjourned on the 6th of December last. The Earl of Scarborough died the day before the adjournment, and Lord Stafford a few days previously, so that their successors will have to take the oaths and subscribe to the Roll of Parliament. The other peers who have died during the interim are the Marquis of Cholmondeley, the Earl of Aylesford, the Earl of Wilton, Lord O'Hagan, the Earl of Morton, and the Earl of Dundonald, the last two being Scotch representative peers. Lord Rocksavage succeeded his father as Marquis of Cholmondeley, Major the Hon. Charles W. Finch succeeded his brother as Earl of Aylesford, and the Hon. Seymour J. Grey Egerton succeeded his brother as Earl of Wilton, and will also have to take their seats in the Upper House. Thomas Towneley, eldest son of the late Lord O'Hagan, is a child, having only completed his sixth year in December last. The new Scotch representative peers in the place of the late Earl of Morton and the Earl of Dundonald are the Earl of Northesk and the Earl of Orkney. There are only two changes in the House of Commons, the new members for Knaresborough and Tipperary having to take their oaths and seats.

An Eastbourne correspondent having directed the attention of Mr. Gladstone to the recent speech of Mr. Marriott, at Eastbourne, wherein that gentleman spoke of Mr. Gladstone having attended a play at the Criterion Theatre at a moment when the hearts of the people were torn in consequence of England's policy, has received the following reply:—"10, *Downing-street, Feb.* 16, 1885.—Dear Sir,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to thank you for your letter of the 12th, but to say that he thinks it best to take no notice of such reflections as those to which you call his attention in Mr. Marriott's speech at Eastbourne.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (signed) H. W. Primrose.—Mr. John T. Markley, Eastbourne."

QUESTIONS FOR TO-DAY.

Sir Edward Sullivan, in view of the meeting of Parliament, presents in the *Morning Post* a series of questions pertinent to the occasion. He says:—

It will be for the advantage of the country, and, indeed, for their own credit, that our representatives should *envisage* the position, and ask themselves why, now, after five years of Mr. Gladstone's Government, England is threatened with greater dangers at home and abroad than have ever threatened her before?

Why are we within a measurable distance of war with France?

Why are we within a measurable distance of war with Russia?

Why are we within a measurable distance of war with the Boers?

Why are we at war with a brave people who only a few months ago Mr. Gladstone described as "struggling to be free?"

Why is Germany hostile? Why is Austria hostile? Why is Turkey hostile?

Why is Egypt, on whom we have spent £20,000,000, bankrupt, ruined, bitterly hostile?

Why did we proclaim the independence of the Soudan before we took steps to secure its evacuation?

Why was Gordon slowly and deliberately betrayed to death?

Why were no attempts at negotiation made with the Mahdi?

Why was Lord Wolseley's army sent two months too late?

Why have we failed in everything we have undertaken?

Why have we always, always, always been too late—too late in all our negotiations; too late in all our expeditions; too late at Angra Pequeña; too late at New Guinea; too late on the Congo; too late to save Sinkat and Tokar; too late to save Khartoum; too late to save Gordon; too late for Lord Wolseley's army to be of any use; too late for it to return; too late for Sir Gerald Graham's army to go to his relief?

Why is Ireland more bitterly hostile than ever?

Why is land unsaleable in that country?

Why are the dynamiters becoming every week more daring and more numerous?

Why is property everywhere uneasy, confidence everywhere shaken?

Why are our industries depressed, our land going out of cultivation?

Why is the angry cry of the unemployed heard everywhere throughout the country?

Why is our Navy so weak? Why is our Army so weak?

What have we gained by professions of humanity that are straightway washed out in blood? By a parade of superfine morality that, in the eyes of all the world, bears the stamp of hypocrisy?

Now (Sir Edward continues), can this unexampled mess, this combination of danger, disgrace, disappointment, extravagance, blood-guiltiness, isolation, be the result of a policy of common sense, of caution, of experience, of foresight—can it be the natural result of inevitable causes? No, it cannot. It is impossible. It is, on the contrary, the result of wilful ignorance of mankind, of a determination not to realise disagreeable facts, of calling things by wrong names, of attributing results to wrong causes, of passion, of prejudice, of self-illusion, of unreasoning optimism, of preposterous vanity, of culpable indifference and spasmodic action, of compromise, of vacillation, of for ever waiting on public opinion. It is, in fact, the result of a policy that is incompatible with the respect of the world, and with the maintenance of empire.

SIR HENRY LAYARD ON THE SOUDAN CRISIS.

The *Times* has published a long letter from Sir Henry Layard on the political situation. Sir Henry remarks that it is now nearly five years since he was recalled from the Embassy at Constantinople, on the ground that, acting under the instructions of Lord Beaconsfield's Government, he had been supporting a policy with which the incoming Ministry did not agree. He has since, for obvious reasons, held his peace, but the time, he considers, has come when every man who has the good name and interests of his country at heart, and who can in any way contribute to the enlightenment of public opinion, should speak out. Sir Henry continues:—

"The present Government, on entering office, abandoned and reversed the secular policy of England with respect to the Ottoman Empire. More than one of its leading members had already, by their speeches and their writings, fomented a fanatical and unreasoning spirit of hatred against the Sultan and the Turkish people. Since it has had the direction of public affairs this change of policy has led it into blunder after blunder. It began by publishing my secret despatch, intended for the eyes of the Cabinet alone, which could have no other effect than to destroy for the future the confidence of the Sultan in the representative of the Queen at his Court. It next ordered the British fleet to join in a hostile demonstration against him, and threatened, in time of peace, to blockade the port of Smyrna. It joined France in a joint Note to the Khedive, passing over the head of his suzerain, to whom it caused very grave but very natural offence. It further affronted him by employing the Ambassador accredited to him by the Queen to carry out a policy in Egypt which he could not but consider as a violation of his rights." Sir Henry then briefly notes the events which have followed on the bombardment of Alexandria, and have led to the expedition to Khartoum. As to what is to be done in the future, he says:—

"We must now of necessity and at any sacrifice take Khartoum; not to avenge the death of Gordon, but to restore our prestige and credit, which the incapacity of the Ministry has so seriously compromised. To retreat would be to make Eastern races believe that we had been defeated and driven back by the undisciplined hordes of the Mahdi—a belief that might be productive to us of the most serious consequences. We cannot retain Khartoum permanently; we cannot allow any European Power to possess it. Nor can we abandon it to the wild tribes of the Soudan. To do so would be to expose those who have befriended us to massacre, to endanger Egypt Proper, to reopen the slave-trade on a vast scale, and to destroy our commerce in those regions. It appears to me, therefore, that we have only one course to pursue—to allow the Sultan, who is the legitimate owner of the Soudan, to occupy it." To the objection that Turkish rule is bad and corrupt, Sir Henry replies that at any rate it would be better than the anarchy which would prevail in the Soudan after we had abandoned it.

"We could take measures to restrain any abuse of power on the part of the Turkish authorities—by keeping, for instance, at their side a capable and energetic man in some such capacity as our Commissioner. In the hands of the Mahdi, or of anyone likely to succeed him, Khartoum would again become a centre of the slave-trade. With Turkey we could combine for its complete suppression. The Sultan has always shown himself ready to co-operate with us with that object; and I had the satisfaction when Ambassador at Constantinople of concluding with the Porte, through his enlightened aid, a convention for its complete extinction throughout his dominions on the Red Sea. He would be disposed to give every encouragement to British trade, and under his protection the railway from Souakim to Berber could be constructed and maintained."

Having noted that Gordon himself recommended that Turkish troops should be sent to Khartoum—a suggestion which, he remarks, had it been acted upon at the time, might have saved his life and spared the present deplorable war—Sir Henry concludes as follows:—

"The ancient policy of England in maintaining the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire was founded, not upon sympathy for the Turks—for sympathy is no factor in the policy of States—but mainly upon two considerations—one being that a break-up of that Empire would lead to a scramble for its remains which would, in the end, produce war and a change in the balance of power detrimental to the interests of England; and the other, that England, having to rule over Mussulman races, the friendship and influence of the Sultan, as the supreme head of Islam, would be of essential use in conciliating and governing them. This policy has been abandoned, and we already see the results. France commenced the game by taking Tunis; England followed suit by occupying Egypt; and now Italy, with our connivance or approval, is appropriating Turkish ports on the western coast of the Red Sea. There still remain Syria, Mesopotamia, Armenia, and Macedonia to gratify the lust for territory of strong and ambitious nations. The Sultan, I understand, is desirous to re-establish the relations of amity which existed between England and Turkey before the advent to power of Mr. Gladstone's Ministry. It is to our interest to meet his overtures. If we do not he may find himself under the necessity of seeking other alliances which may lead to events of disastrous consequences to us. From my personal knowledge of his character—and few men have had better opportunities than I have of judging of it—I believe him to be sincerely attached to England, truly anxious to acquire her friendship, and ready to fulfil loyally and punctually the obligations which that friendship may impose upon him."

Convocation.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

UPPER HOUSE.—Friday.

The Bishops assembled in the Board-room of Queen Anne's Bounty Office, the Archbishop presiding. There were present the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Bishop of Bangor, the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop Designate of London, the Bishop of St. Albans, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Truro, and the Bishop of Southwell.

The Archbishop brought up the report of the Committee of the whole House on the subject of the reservation of the Holy Communion for the purpose of administration to the sick. The report was read by his Grace as follows:—"Among the more earnest labours of our clergy for the spiritual good of those committed to their charge none are more conspicuous than the ministrations to the sick and dying. As a result, it may be, of this increasing earnestness and devotion, a desire has been expressed in some quarters for a revival of the practice of reserving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with a view to the more frequent and convenient reception of it by the sick. Now, although we can well understand that difficulties may arise from the number of sick, or that there may be in certain cases hindrances to the reverent celebration of the Holy Communion in private houses, we deem it to be our duty to remind any of our brethren who may be tempted to revive the practice of reservation, that it is contrary to the wise and carefully revised order of the Church of England, as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. The rubric at the close of the Communion Service as to the consecrated bread and wine is clear and particular in this direction—'That if any remain of that which was consecrated, it shall not be carried out of the church; but the priest, and such other of the communicants as he shall then call unto him, shall, immediately after the blessing, reverently eat and drink the same.' Furthermore, it is to be observed that all mention of reservation has been removed from the special office for the Communion for the Sick. Lastly, it is declared in the 28th Article of the Church of England that 'the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.' If it be contended that the reservation forbidden in this Article is to be understood of reservation for superstitious uses, yet, when the words are read in connection with the direction already referred to, it plainly follows that no reservation of the Sacrament for any purpose is consistent with the rule of the Church of England." The Archbishop moved the adoption of the report.

The Bishop of Winchester seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A report of the Joint Committee of both Houses "On the Spiritual Needs of the Masses of the People" was presented by the Bishop of Winchester. The committee consisted of five Bishops and ten members of the Lower House. Papers had been sent by the committee to 646 rural deaneries, from which 379 replies had been received. These differed in value. Some were too brief and vague to be of value; but there were many detailed reports, drawn up with great care, setting forth a vivid picture of parochial administration, and recording remarkable and instructive revivals of Church life. Among these latter class of reports were those of London districts of Stepney and Spitalfields. The first question sent out was "Whether there were any considerable number of people who were not reached by the ordinary services and methods of the Church. The answers varied. In some country villages every one of the inhabitants was brought more or less under the eye of the pastor, and derived, more or less consciously, some bias from his influence. In some of the smaller towns leeway had been made by past neglect, and even in the greatest cities progress had been made with the darkest and densest masses of the population. While it was ackuowledged there were many towns in which a large proportion of the population was not reached at all, and that there was a low percentage of churchgoers among whole bodies of parishioners, yet the tone of the returns generally was rather hopeful than despondent. There had been progress since 1858 in lessening the spiritual destitution of the masses in Stepney, Whitechapel, Spitalfields, and Bethnal-green; but there was need for still greater exertion for improvement. Various causes were presented for the abstention of the people from church, and among these causes were—dissent and materialism, ignorance and indifference, increasing selfwill, spread of indifferentism, increasing sale of Sunday newspapers, and Sunday excursions. The social feelings of the people, too, were alleged to be against churchgoing, and it was acknowledged that among these social reasons were—poverty, with the strain of work and the struggle for existence; overcrowding, want of work, ignorance and prejudice of the worst kind; publichouses open late on Saturday and Sunday; but, above all, isolation of the poor. Then the circumstances of the Church were against them; its poverty, the unequal distribution of endowments, insufficiency of funds for Church purposes. Neglect had followed, and had led to hostility. In upwards of fifty pages the report dealt with the subject,

and in the course of it testimony came from several parts that though good in regard to temperance had been done by the Salvation Army, its work as a whole was a failure—it "had made a great noise, produced great irreverence, caused religion to be lightly esteemed, and had done mischief by confounding religion with unnatural excitement." The committee said:—"We must not shrink from facing the facts of the case, nor imagine that we are doing much more than moving towards the accomplishment of the great work which the Church of this country is called upon to fulfil. It must be borne steadily in mind that the population of England and Wales, amounting in 1801 to less than 9,000,000, verged in 1881 on 26,000,000, with an annual increase of nearly 330,000, in spite of enormous emigration; and no means at present at our disposal, nor all the efforts which pious people are making, can keep up in populous districts the supply of spiritual energy equal to the demand. It cannot be denied—it is in truth one of those trite facts of which everyone is cognisant—that in every town of upwards of, say, 10,000 inhabitants, there are multitudes growing up whom the ministrations of the Church never do, and, humanly speaking, never can, under present circumstances, reach; and it has been represented to us that this condition of things is not a little intensified by the action of Board schools, whose tendency, with some marked exceptions, is to separate the people more and more from the influence of the clergy, and thus to bring up a generation still more alien and even antagonistic." The committee made various recommendations, in the course of which the clergy were urged that they could only win souls by toil, self-sacrifice, and unworldly living, and directions were laid down for giving services to meet the wants of the people, encouraging working men's societies, attending to the schools, and stress was laid upon the importance of ministrations in the pulpit.

The Bishop of WINCHESTER moved the adoption of the report, and that it should be commended to the Church at large.

The Bishop of GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL seconded the motion, and in reference to the statement in regard to School Boards, said he had no complaint to make of the separation of religious teaching from the School Boards in his diocese; but, on the contrary, he found that they assisted religious teaching.

The Bishop of BANGOR also said that he only found religious teaching not fully carried out where the School Boards were composed of different sects. In such cases the masters were afraid of giving offence. Where there was not much religious difference on the Boards the religious teaching was satisfactory.

The ARCHBISHOP referred to the importance of Teaching Missions, as distinct from Revival Missions, and spoke of the great value of the former. With respect to School Boards, he bore his testimony to the wholesome religious teaching which was carried out in very many schools of the School Board.

The report was adopted.

His Grace the ARCHBISHOP presented the following prayer for our soldiers who are engaged in war:—

"O Almighty Lord God, King of all Kings, and Governor of all things, that sittest on the Throne judging right, we commend to Thy Fatherly goodness the men who through perils of war are serving this nation, beseeching Thee to take into Thine own hand both them and the cause wherein their Queen and country send them. Be Thou their tower of strength where they are set in the midst of so many and great dangers. Make all bold through death or life to put their trust in Thee, who art the only giver of all victory, and canst save by many or by few; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Be merciful, O Lord, unto our sins, and grant us evermore to use Thy mercy to Thy glory, to the advancement to Thy Kingdom, and the honour of our Sovereign, seeking always the deliverance of the oppressed, and, as much as lieth in us, the good of all mankind; through our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."

This was approved by the House, and it was recommended that it should be sent to the clergy.

After the transaction of various other business of a minor character, Convocation was adjourned until the end of April.

LOWER HOUSE.—FRIDAY.

The Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury reassembled at the College Hall, Westminster, Lord Alwyne Compton, the Prolocutor, in the chair.

Archdeacon HESSEY introduced a report on the proposed House of Laymen who were to sit concurrently with Convocation, so as to assist them in their deliberations. The Archdeacon gave a historical sketch of Convocation, and concluded by moving—

That it is desirable that a House of Laymen, being communicants of the Church of England, be formed for the Province of Canterbury, to confer with the members of Convocation.

Canon RAWLINSON opposed the resolution as a matter of principle. To create a House of Laymen would mean that Convocation was abandoning her old position. Lay influence was already sufficiently felt in Convocation, inasmuch as the Prime Minister practically appointed the Bishops and Deans, and the Bishops in their turn appointed the Archdeacons. Then there was this important fact to be considered, that Convocation could do nothing without Parliament. He thought they wanted no more lay influence. Another argument against this proposition was that they would be passing from the known to the unknown, and they would be giving up a grand position which had come down to them from pre-Reformation times. Another reason why he objected to a Lay House was that it would be playing into the hands of those who desired to disestablish the Church. If he found himself in a minority, still he should be glad that he protested against the proposal, "Victrix causa Diis placuit, sed victa Catoni." (Cheers.)

Archdeacon NORRIS said that it was true that this proposed House of Laymen was a new thing, but it would have been a great innovation if they had proposed to meddle with the constitution of the Convocation itself. It was a necessity to have some such institution so as to avoid tampering with the ancient constitution. Since the House of Commons ceased to be composed of Churchmen, or at least those who nominally were Churchmen, the Colossus of Church legislation had been standing upon one sound leg and one lame one. The ancient principle was that the Church was governed by two bodies—one spiritual and the other lay. Of late years Church legislation had become increasingly difficult. Now they proposed to create a lay body as representing the lay voice of the Church.

Canon BRIGHT said there could be no question as to the principle of consultation between the Bishops, the clergy, and the faithful laity. The question was only as to the method of carrying out this principle. Archdeacon Norris had said that the legislation of the Church of England rested anciently on "two legs"—Convocation and a Parliament composed of Churchmen; and that when Parliament was no longer so composed that "leg" became rickety, which implied feebleness. But would the formation of this Lay House deprive Parliament of one jot or tittle of its legal power of control over the Church? And if it would not, then the result would be that the "double basis" would be altered into a treble one, and that would be doubling the lay power over the clergy. Another objection was that to set up side by side with an old constitutional body another body unknown to the Constitution, but allowed by a private compact to control the free action of the constitutional one, would produce constitutional embarrassment; thirdly, it was by no means certain that to create a Lay House would secure the ancient character of Convocation as a clerical body. The word "house" suggested a co-ordinate position, and the laymen might prove not to be content with anything less than actual membership in the Synod.

A long discussion followed, but eventually the resolution was agreed to.

The House also resolved—

That the members of the House of Laymen be appointed by the lay members of the diocesan conferences of the province, and that they continue to hold their seats until the dissolution of Convocation next ensuing.

Other resolutions referring to the constitution of the Lay House were agreed to, but some further ones with respect to the functions of the new House of Laymen were postponed.

The House was prorogued until the 28th of April.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC ON THE ENGLISH PRAYER-BOOK.

Mr. St. George Mivart writes at some length to the *Tablet* respecting vernacular Breviary services. He observes that few things are more striking to an English convert when he comes to mix with Catholic laity than their surprising ignorance of Scripture, and this applies even to the devotional parts of it. With full reason has Lord Braye complained of the ignorance and non-use amongst us of the Psalms. Yet if there is one thing common to pious English people it is a fondness for the Psalms and their use in public devotions. The Bishop of Salford has said: "A love for the Psalms has always been one of the religious characteristics of the English people. . . . . It is natural that we should experience a certain spiritual unction in the devout and meditative use of these divinely inspired and most beautiful Psalms." It is impossible that our people can heartily join in Breviary services *in Latin*, and it is difficult to understand how any man can seriously expect the mass of pious Englishmen to use for their public devotions a language they cannot understand. It is very different with nations in which the use of Latin is traditional—especially if their own language is closely akin to Latin. What poor layman can fail to understand, what pious one can fail to say say with his heart as well as his lips: "O come letus sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation?" Who can reasonably contend that the words "Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after Thee, O God," or "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for ever," are no clearer to the uneducated Englishman or Englishwoman than are their Latin equivalents? Moreover, nearly the whole of the Book of Common Prayer is not less straightforward and simple than the fragments of it just quoted. Whether or not it be a fact, as has been asserted, that amongst the causes which tended to reconcile the English people to the change of religion in the sixteenth century, a prominent place must be assigned to the adoption of the vernacular in church services, certainly its effects on the nation have been profound.

To the devotional use of the Psalms in their mother tongue the English people have—as the Bishop of Salford says—become profoundly habituated, and the immense majority are accustomed to Breviary-like services. The Book of Common Prayer is a most akilful and admirable adaptation from the Breviary. The Anglican Evensong, which has been made by a blending of Vespers and Compline in one, with constant variety as to the Psalms used, is excellently well adapted to the requirements of modern life. A very highly-placed Catholic ecclesiastic coincides in this view.

Mr. Mivart goes on to say that the Book of Common Prayer is derived directly from a specially Roman source—the Breviary of Cardinal Quignonez, who, at the command of Pope Clement VII., completed the work first entrusted by Leo X. to Bishop Ferreri. The first edition of this reformed Breviary appeared in 1535 under the sanction of Pope Paul III. It omitted all Antiphons, Little Chapters, Versicles, Responses, and Hymns, as well as the Office of our Lady. That portion of the Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer which animadverts on the complexity of the existing Breviaries is a literal reproduction of Quignonez's epistle to Paul III. prefixed to his Breviary. It ran through fifty-seven editions before 1568, and its use quickly spread through Southern Europe till Pope Pius V. forbade its use. Thus those who desire a simplified and shortened Breviary with much more of Scripture can quote Papal authority in their favour.

The outcome of Mr. Mivart's contention is to respectfully submit to the consideration of those really anxious for a readmission into the Church's fold of the mass of Englishmen, whether a greater number of Breviary-like services, with the use of the vernacular, might not be an important step in that direction. Lord Bute has given an admirable translation of the Roman Breviary; why should there not be, where local circumstances might make it desirable, thoroughly liturgical services in English?

It is, of course, in no way meant to advocate the substitution of such services for the Divine Office fully performed in Latin, wherever it can so be duly and fruitfully performed.

On the subject of the Baptism of Infants, the writer goes on to point out the disedifying results produced by the use of Latin for more than the sacramental words. Parents and sponsors stand in a state of helpless noncomprehension while a number of prayers are uttered which no one can say they are the better for *not* understanding, unless he thinks that a desirable reverence for the priestly office is to be promoted by mystified, ignorant wonder. But if the vernacular be desirable in Baptisms, it is very much more desirable still that the beautiful Office for the Burial of the Dead should be performed in English. No greater benefit accrues to the dead from the use of Latin, while the friends and relatives of the deceased lose not only much comfort, but also lose real edification which they might receive had they a full comprehension of what is being said. This is a matter in which not a few clergy agree with this view, and there are several who habitually use English for the very sake of such comfort and edification.

Analogous concessions have from time to time been made by the Holy See to others. No one probably would be so bold as to deny that some Pope of the sixteenth century would have conceded an English Breviary if thereby he could have retained the English people in the Church; nor would a Pope of the nineteenth cenrury refuse it, if that people could certainly thereby be gained. There is abundant evidence that authority at Rome is often insufficiently acquainted with the manners, habits, feelings, and ideas prevalent in England, and it may be questioned whether that authority is fully informed as to the conditions which exist amongst us as to public worship—conditions so entirely different from those which prevail in Italy.

FATHER ANGUS ON PARNELLISM.

The Rev. Father Angus, a well-known Roman Catholic priest of the diocese of St. Andrew's, has addressed to the *Tablet* an able and timely protest on the subject of Irish Nationalism. Observing that silence or concealment as regards crime are both condemned in the *Catechism of Christian Doctrine*, he goes on to say:—"It is of the utmost importance that the Catholic Church be properly represented as being, what she is, the champion of Law, Order, and Authority, and in no way appearing to tamper with treason or condone crime. . . . . I disassociate myself from, and refuse to be identified or mixed up with, men who are 'steeped to the lips in treason;' whose confederates are Henri Rochefort, P. J. Sheridan, P. Egan, Eugene Davis, and the like; who at social gatherings hoot and hiss the Queen's name; who on every possible occasion express their hatred for Great Britain and their sympathy with her enemies, be they French, Russians, Sepoys, Zulus, or Soudanese; who stump the country stirring up ill-blood between Ireland and Great Britain by delivering violent and seditious harangues at rowdy meetings. I refuse to recognise these as in any way champions of Catholicity. . . . If a disloyal and disaffected people send disloyal and disaffected representatives to the House of Commons, that is but natural . . . and if people prefer Messrs. Biggar, the brothers Redmond (*arcades ambo*), Healy, O'Brien, *et hoc genus omne*, to Messrs. Bellingham, Errington, Count Moore, Colonel Colthurst, and the late Sir G. Bowyer—well, there is no accounting for tastes. But I object to be represented by them, and I decline to express anything but unbounded condemnation of, and contempt for, their manners and their morals.

"Nor do I blame them for not denouncing crime. Why should they do so? During the Land League reign of murder and mutilation, they stood calmly by, and if, as the Holy See said in May, 1883, they never then denounced murders and other crimes, why now? Mr. Davitt lately said they might as well denounce the Mahdi. Quite so—but *United Ireland* (Mr. Parnell's organ, edited by 'a good Catholic'), expressed an earnest desire that the Mahdi would exterminate our troops in Egypt; although many brave Irishmen, Catholic and Protestant, are in our army. This kind of mean, revengeful spite is one of the worst features of Irish Nationalism. The same paper laughs at the broken glass and shattered buildings at Westminster, calmly and cynically ignoring the wholesale murder which might have taken place, and the injuries to men and women which did take place. So another good Catholic, the other day, compared the late A. M. Sullivan to three Manchester roughs who murdered a policeman, as having, like them, died for his country! Our religion is identified with these men by the outside public (very naturally), and so dragged through the dirt; and I think it high time that another view of the case be put before that same public.

"The very large majority of people in Great Britain accuse (and, as I think, with perfect justice), Mr. Parnell and his friends as being, at least, 'in art or part with' criminals and crime. Mr. Redmond's *Gospel of Silence and Concealment* will add force to their convictions. Mr. Parnell and his followers cannot and dare not denounce outrage. They cannot—for if they did they would lose American dollars and *prestige* at once; they dare not—for they would be shot, or stabbed, or blown up, by some of their irregular allies, and have the additional annoyance of feeling that no one believed them. In the meantime they survive and present the most curious caricature of the Catholic religion which ever astonished the Christian and civilised world.

"I still believe that in Ireland there may be a remnant which has not bowed the knee to Baal. I fear, however (and the late Father Tom Burke expressed similar sentiments), that its people are being led away by professional agitators and political adventurers, 'to mistake through greed of gain evil for good' (words of Circular of Holy See, May, 1883), and that they are becoming rapidly and hopelessly demoralised as the prey of what I called, in a letter to the *Times* in May, 1882, 'a vile Revolutionary movement appealing to greed and covetousness (the worst passions of our fallen nature) and stained by bloodshed and crime.'"

LADY JOHN MANNERS ON READING ROOMS.

In the sixth of a series of papers on "Public Reading and Recreation Rooms," contributed to the *Queen* by Lady John Manners, her Ladyship observes that in Australia, and in many of our colonies, the necessity for providing food for the mind of the people is fully recognised. The Melbourne Public Library is the finest in the Australian colonies. Government defrayed the cost of the building, £111,604, and supplied for books, &c., £344,089. The private contributions of books and pamphlets are valued at £15,000. This library is entirely free, and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week-days. Over a quarter of a million of all classes of people avail themselves of its privileges during the year. There are free libraries, athenæums, scientific, literary, or mechanics' institutes in most of the towns of Victoria, and the Melbourne Public Library supplies books on loan to many of these. They receive some support from Government. £7,682 were distributed amongst them in 1882, and private contributions amounted to about £290,000; and they have about three millions of visitors during the year. Besides the public library, there is a free library connected with the Patent Office in Melbourne, and there is also a valuable library in the Supreme Court, Melbourne, with branches in each assize town of Victoria, which are free to members of the legal profession. In America, libraries and reading rooms seem essential parts of the social system. Almost everywhere in Germany there are free libraries, and it is astonishing how many of the poorer classes read English. But standard literature is not yet published extensively in forms at once good and inexpensive. Though at Florence there is a fine national library and at Venice a marvellous collection of archives, yet in Italy free reading rooms do not seem to be frequently established. In that lovely country perhaps the book of nature is so attractive that the inhabitants find their chief pleasure in its study. In Switzerland Government gives great encouragement to libraries, and in France they are universal.

"Perhaps some of us," Lady John Manners continues, "may live to see the day when the dwellers in the mother country may enjoy the privileges of those in her colonies. . . . . One of the chief difficulties of the founder of libraries has been the choice of books. A national plan of reading would indeed be a boon to the people. While we are placed in widely differing circumstances, yet certain laws rule us all, one event must happen to us all, and there are certain facts which we should all endeavour to learn. And so there are some books that should, if possible, be read by all, whatever their position in life. For we should read with the object of fitting ourselves to act wisely, and to bear with fortitude the trials that sooner or later must come to every one of us. It is to be feared that many people take up a book as they would a cigarette, regarding both as soothing means of enabling them to doze away an idle half-hour. Some, too, avowedly read that they may have something to talk about. . . . . At this moment, when many are reading with deep interest the life of George Eliot, it may not be amiss to recall the passage in which she writes: 'No political institution will alter the nature of ignorance, or hinder it from producing vice and misery. Let ignorance start how it will, it must run the same round of low appetites, poverty, slavery, and superstition.'"

Mr. W. St. C. Boscawen last week delivered before the Shorthand Society, a lecture on the subject of "Oriental Inscriptions as illustrative of the Growth and Development of Writing." At the commencement of his lecture Mr. Boscawen said that it was difficult to realise, as we looked at a page of modern printing or writing, the fact that we had before us in the twenty-six simple characters of the Western alphabet the result of the labours of millions of minds during tens of centuries. The art of writing, the desire to give a graphic record of events in the personal or tribal life, or to convey some message to others, was one which was attained and practised at a very remote period in the history of the human race. The inscribed records of Egypt and Chaldea carried us back to a very remote period, to within, it might seem, an almost appreciable distance of the threshold of history. The laws which regulated the growth and development of writing from its rudest and most primitive stage of pure pictorial expression to the higher development of syllabic and alphabetical writing were now known, and when applied to the chief systems of writing in use in the Oriental world revealed the same process of growth and development in each. The hieroglyphics of Egypt, the cuneiform scripts of Mesopotamia, and the pictorial characters of the Hittites had each passed through the various stages of word-building by compounded idiographs, of phonetic expressions by syllables, and even simplification to an alphabetic stage. In no case, however, were the various stages so fully represented and the periods of transition which connected them so well preserved as in the cuneiform inscriptions. In these compound idiographs we could trace with wonderful clearness the reasoning of the primitive mind striving to build up an expression for some abstract idea. But as the people grew in culture and the vocabulary of the language increased, so even the most elastic limits of word-building of which the cuneiform characters admitted were surpassed, and it became necessary to employ phonetic characters. The lecturer then proceeded to explain the system on which the cuneiform syllabary was built up, its extent and adaptability. The adaptability of this writing was well illustrated by the fact of the number of nations that had adopted it as their script. In conclusion Mr. Boscawen said that the examination of Oriental inscriptions, even of those which still defied the skill of the decipherer, was of importance, as in these rude and silent characters we often had a vivid picture of the features, home, and surroundings, the dress, manners, and customs of those who for centuries had withdrawn from the world's stage, but who nevertheless had been once powerful and leading actors in the world's great historic drama.

It has been decided to offer £100 to the Senate of London University towards the foundation of a Rabbeth medal in commemoration of the devoted young doctor who lost his life through an attempt to relieve the sufferings of a child dying of diphtheria in the Royal Free Hospital. The father of Dr. Rabbeth has undertaken to found the proposed scholarship at King's College in memory of his son at his own expense, and the committee of the memorial fund have resolved to divide the funds which may be at their disposal on the 31st of March between the King's College and Royal Free Hospital towards the endowment of two children's cots. By that date they hope their funds will have considerably increased.

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CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1829.

PATRONS.
His Grace The ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY. | His Grace The ARCHBISHOP of YORK.
PRESIDENT—The Right Hon. and Right Rev. The LORD BISHOP of LONDON.
CHAIRMAN—The Very Rev. the DEAN of WESTMINSTER. DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—ROBERT FEW, Esq.
ACTUARY—STEWART HELDER, Esq. PHYSICIAN—Dr. STONE.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION, 1st JUNE, 1884:—

Total Funds	£3,148,166
Total Annual Income	£343,271
Total Amount of Claims upon Death	£2,373,688
Amount of Profits divided at the last Quinquennial Bonus	£437,347

NO AGENTS EMPLOYED AND NO COMMISSION PAID.

BONUS—£437,347 was distributed amongst 7,882 Policies at the Tenth Quinquennial Division of Profits. Of these, 1,070 were then, by means of Bonus, not only altogether freed from the payment of Annual Premiums, but had, in almost every case, additions made to the sums originally assured.
PREMIUMS.—Assurances may be effected to the extent of £7,500 at very moderate Rates of Premium, one-fifth of which may remain a charge upon the Policy, to be repaid wholly or in part at each Quinquennial Division of Profits.
MANAGEMENT.—The total expenses on all accounts were, in the past financial year, £4 5s. 9d. per cent. of the total income.
QUALIFICATION.—The Clergy and such of the Laity as are connected with them by kindred or marriage.
MATTHEW HODGSON, Secretary.

Copies of the 55th Annual Report and revised Prospectus, Forms of Proposals, &c., may be had on application to the Office, 1 & 2, THE SANCTUARY, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

ARMY SCRIPTURE READERS' AND SOLDIERS FRIEND SOCIETY, 4, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, CHARING CROSS.

PATRONS—His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY; Right Hon. EARL of SHAFTESBURY.
PRESIDENT—GENERAL SIR A. J. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

The Friends of the Soldier are earnestly appealed to for FUNDS for the continued support of the Society. Ninety Scripture Readers are now actively employed in the Army at home and abroad.
With such unquestionable testimony on all sides to the beneficial influence of the Reader in camp, in barrack, and in hospital, we cannot come to any other conclusion than that the Lord's blessing is resting in no small degree upon this Institution; and with this conviction deeply impressed on our hearts, we lay this matter before all who can feel for a soldier's trials, a soldier's temptations, a soldier's devotion to his Queen and country, but, above all, for a soldier's everlasting welfare, confident—nay, more than confident, assured—that he will cause unknown supporters to spring up upon the right hand and upon the left, and stimulate old friends to fresh exertions. Two additional readers have sailed for Egypt and South Africa.
CONTRIBUTIONS will be THANKFULLY RECEIVED by the Treasurer, V. G. M. Holt, Esq., 17, Whitehall-place; at the Bankers, National Provincial Bank of England, 212, Piccadilly; by the Secretary, Mr. William A. Blake; or by the Hon Secretary, Colonel J. W. F. Sandwith.

FESTIVAL OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.—Instituted A.D. 1655.—The 231st ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be celebrated under the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th of May, with a full Choral Service.
The ANNUAL DINNER will take place the same day, in Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR presiding. Further particulars will be announced in due course.
DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS are respectfully invited to enable the Corporation to extend the great work which it has carried on for more than two centuries in providing—
1. GRANTS to the Poorer Clergy of England and Wales.
2. PENSIONS to their Widows and Aged Single Daughters.
3. EDUCATION, Outfits, and Apprentice Fees, for Clergy Children.
1,546 individuals received assistance in 1884.
Donors of thirty guineas are elected Governors of the Corporation.
Contributions will be thankfully received by Messrs. Hoare, Bankers, 37, Fleet-street, E.C.; or by
W. PAGET BOWMAN, Registrar.
2, Bloomsbury-place, Bloomsbury-square, W.C.

ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.
Established 1757.

PATRON: HER MAJESTY the QUEEN.

For delivering poor lying-in women at their own homes in all parts of London, marriage and necessity the only tests of eligibility.
More than 3,000 poor women were attended last year in their hour of trial by first-rate physicians and midwives.
DONATIONS will be THANKFULLY RECEIVED by Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, and Co.; or at the Charity's House, 31, Finsbury-square, by
J. W. LONG, Secretary.
31, Finsbury-square, London.

CITY OF LONDON TRUSS SOCIETY,
FINSBURY SQUARE,
For the Relief of the Ruptured Poor throughout the Kingdom
Established 1807.
Patron—H.R.H. the PRINCE of WALES.
The importance of this Charity to the suffering poor of both sexes and all ages may be gathered from the fact that 388,000 have been already relieved.
The proportion of aggravated cases to simple cases is larger than it was formerly; hence more expensive instruments are required, greater cost is entailed, and increased Funds are needed. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, and Co., 73, Lombard-street, E.C.; and by the Secretary, at the Institution, 35 Finsbury-square.
JOHN WHITTINGTON, Secretary.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL—Site for New Building, Kingsland-road.—FUNDS urgently NEEDED for building and general purposes. Bankers Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co. 67, Lombard-street. Temporary premises, 81, Commercial-street, E.
GEO. CROXTON, Secretary.

ST. MICHAEL'S ORPHANAGE,
WOODSIDE, CROYDON.

FOUNDED 1872.

For the SONS of Professional Men and Clergymen requiring assistance.
Age of Admission, 6 to 9 years. Fees 5 guineas quarterly.
For infants and for very young children there is a nursery connected with the Orphanage.

The School is under Government Inspection. H.M. Inspector, in his Report for 1884, says:—
"The boys have passed a highly successful examination as well in the elementary subjects as in geography and grammar. Poetry is repeated correctly, and in some instances with spirit and expression. Elementary magnetism has been very carefully taught, and is remarkably well answered. In singing the school maintains its pre-eminence. Exercises in military drill are well performed. The boys are under admirable discipline, attentive to their work, well behaved, and happy."

Latin is taught by an University man.

The boys are allowed to spend the first fortnight in August with their friends.

For Admission and further particulars apply to the Rev. the Chaplain, The Orphanage, Woodside, Croydon.

PHŒNIX FIRE OFFICE,
LOMBARD ST. AND CHARING CROSS, LONDON.
Established 1782.

Insurances against Loss By Fire and Lightning effected in all parts of the World.
Loss claims arranged with promptitude and liberality.
WILLIAM C. MACDONALD } Joint
FRANCIS B. MACDONALD } Secretaries.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Authorised Capital, £3,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £2,000,000, Paid-up Capital, £625,000.

RESOURCES OF THE COMPANY as at 31st December, 1883.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Net Premiums received during the year 1883, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to £1,107,745 9s. 9d.
The Net Losses by Fire during the year were, after deducting re-insurances, £672,825 13s. 10d.
This embraces not merely all losses actually ascertained and paid, but a full estimate of all claims that had arisen prior to 31st December.
The Fire Funds, after payment of the Dividend and Bonus aftermentioned, and irrespective of the Paid-up Capital, are as follow:—

Reserve	£1,170,000 0 0
Premium Reserve	360,248 9 11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	52,986 15 3
	£1,583,235 5 2

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

894 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring	£314,819 0 0
The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of	29,572 1 5
The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 397 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to	346,122 4 4
The Income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to	471,407 15 7
In the Annuity Branch 83 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £5,390 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of	50,520 11 6
The Life Fund, now amounts to	3,340,918 11 2
The Annuity Fund now amounts to	509,275 17 11

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—The PRINCIPLES on which this Company was founded, and on which it continues to act, combine the system of Mutual Assurance with the safety of a large Protecting Capital and Accumulated Funds. NINETY PER CENT. of the WHOLE PROFITS is divided among the Assurers on the Participating Scale. The PROFITS are divided every Five Years. POLICIES are INDISPUTABLE after Five Years.

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JAY'S, Regent-street.

IMPROVED JANUS CORD (Registered).
BOTH SIDES ALIKE.
1¼ guineas the full dress length.
Made specially for Messrs. JAY, and recommended by them as the best and the cheapest material at the price ever manufactured for a lady's dress. JANUS CORD makes up remarkably well, and ladies who habitually wear black will find it an excellent wearing dress.
JAY'S, Regent-street.

EVENING DRESSES.—Two Guineas and Two and a Half Guineas each, with sufficient material for bodice included. The newest and most fashionable style, and made of non-crushing silk net. Pencil drawings of the same, postage free, on application.
JAY'S,
THE LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE,
REGENT STREET, W.

EDE AND SON,
ROBE MAKERS,

By Special Appointment,
TO HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY,
THE LORD CHANCELLOR, THE BISHOPS,
CORPORATION OF LONDON, &c.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND UNIVERSITY GOWNS
of every description.
LAWN SLEEVES, ROCHET AND CHIMERE.
Surplices for Clergy and Choir,

Hoods,	Cassocks,	Scarves.
Stoles,	Bands,	Clergy Collars.
College Caps,	Band Cases,	Sermon Cases.

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PEERS', LEGAL, AND CORPORATION ROBES.
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94, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON.

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General Trade Advertisements (Reduction for Series) 9d. per line.
Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths inserted for 3s. 6d. each.
Advertisements over Leader, 1s. per line.

. **All Cheques and P.O. Orders to be made payable to E. D. MADDICK, 6, Whitefriars street.**

JOHN BULL.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 21.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The faint gleam of hope which yet lingered in our minds, or rather in our hearts, when we last wrote, has been extinguished by the more definite tidings as to the fate of General GORDON which have now reached us. Even the most sanguine can no longer doubt that Khartoum has fallen, and that the great Englishman who had single-handed held the town so long against the overwhelming numbers of his foemen met his fate but a few days before the relieving force would in all probability have arrived to rescue him. But the despairing attempt of the Radical press to throw upon Sir CHARLES WILSON the blame of arriving too late, and to suggest that if the lamented Sir HERBERT STEWART had not been wounded at Abu Klea he would have pressed on and reached Khartoum in time to save GORDON and his garrison, is worthy of its originators. It was not the day or two which may perhaps have been lost at the end by the gallant commander of the small force which fought its way across the desert—even admitting that a day or two was lost—but the months and months which were lost before the army was sent out to relieve him, which are to be regarded as having brought about the fatal result. It seems clear that the action of the traitors was accelerated by the news of the approaching arrival of the relieving force, and the presentiment of treachery which finds such painful expression in the last letter which GORDON ever wrote has proved itself to be but too well justified.

Close upon the confirmation of General GORDON's death follows news of the death of Sir HERBERT STEWART, who came so near rescuing him. From the first STEWART's condition was regarded with great anxiety by those best informed of the nature of his wound, but England hoped almost against hope for his recovery, as she has hoped against hope for the safety of GORDON. He died at Gakdul on the 16th inst., and we can well believe that his death has cast great gloom over all the small English army which could so ill spare him. It is an additional pang to consider that he must at the last have been aware that his gallant march across the desert and the victory in which he received his death-wound had failed to accomplish their object; that the hero to save whom he had made that dangerous march was dead; that the Arabs, instead of being demoralised by that victory, were pouring down in vast numbers to cut off the brave little force with which he won it; and that the force itself was in full retreat on Korti. But he must also have known that he had done what he could to make up for the fatal dilatoriness of his Government, that his country and his QUEEN were proud of him and of his soldiers, and that he left a name as a brave officer and a skilful General which will take a worthy place on the long muster-roll of England's famous soldiers.

Meanwhile, it is to the comrades who survive to mourn his loss, and to feel it all the more in the anxious circumstances which surround them, that our attention must be directed. The MAHDI has frustrated the plan of campaign sketched out by Lord WOLSELEY on the first news of the fall of Khartoum by assuming the offensive instead of waiting to be attacked. That he had not before done so was matter of surprise, and an argument was based upon it by those who clung to the belief that, after all, Khartoum had not fallen, for, as they said with all appearance of probability, if the MAHDI's forces had been set free they would at once have swooped down on the scattered bands of Englishmen. This is what he has now done, and Sir REDVERS BULLER has been compelled to withdraw his troops from Gubat, and is by this time on his way to Korti. At a late hour last evening news was received that while at Abu

Klea he had been harassed by the enemy's fire at long range, but that he was perfectly safe against an attack of even a large force. Meantime General BRACKENBURY continues his difficult river journey towards Abu Hamad, which he hopes to reach on the 26th. He would then hold the head of the Korosko route across the desert, and it is to be presumed will entrench himself, for probably the idea of his pushing on to Berber has been abandoned. We are certainly far enough at present from that smashing the MAHDI of which Mr. GLADSTONE speaks so glibly, and when we remember how comparatively easy such a task would have been if we had given GORDON the assistance for which he begged so earnestly, and how difficult it will be now that the MAHDI holds Khartoum and all the Nile valley down to Abu Hamad, we do not feel in that charity towards the Grand Old Man which we should wish to do.

Blood is thicker than water—even than the cold water which Lord DERBY pours with all the vigour of which he is capable upon the aspirations of our colonists. We are, therefore, glad to find them returning good for evil, and at the very time when their interests are most neglected by the Mother Country, showing how keen their own interest is in that Mother Country. If amidst the universal gloom which enshrouds the political sky we find a gleam of sunlight, it is in the readiness which our colonists have shown to help us in our hour of need, without pausing to consider that it is to the very men who have persistently snubbed them and sacrificed their interests that it is owing that we have come to that hour. It is also satisfactory that our rulers have not felt themselves compelled, as consistent adherents to Midlothian traditions and to the policy of reversing all that Lord BEACONSFIELD ever did, and refusing to do anything which he was likely to have done, to reject the aid thus proffered. We are reminded by a colonist that a similar offer was made after the disaster on Majuba Hill, but our Liberal Government had not then been educated up to its acceptance. Now, at all events, Canada, New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria have been able to show our PRIME MINISTER that it is not necessary for the success of that federation of English-speaking people to which he looks forward, that the memory of General WASHINGTON should be regarded as the one centre around which English-speaking people are to rally.

To meet Parliament under present circumstances cannot have been very pleasant for HER MAJESTY'S Ministers, and even Mr. GLADSTONE lost somewhat of his fluency, and Lord GRANVILLE somewhat of his self-confidence, when it became necessary for them to say something about Egypt and the Soudan on the first night of the adjourned Session. Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE alone showed himself in his accustomed form when he with a grave face asserted that the appointment of Prince HASSAN as High Commissioner had been conferred on him "by the KHEDIVE and nobody "else"! This, as a verbal *équivoque*, was worthy of Mr. GLADSTONE himself, and is entitled to just as much belief. The PRIME MINISTER emphatically proclaimed a policy of smashing the MAHDI, but declined to contemplate what was to follow after, except so far as his statement that the policy of the Government as regards Egypt remains absolutely unchanged may be regarded as heralding another course of massacre and mizzle. We cannot, however, but expect that the Vote of Censure, of which Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE has given notice, may succeed in extracting something more definite as to the future. Any explanation as to the past which can in any way justify the conduct of the Government is impossible. Fresh asseverations that General GORDON himself is alone responsible, that he might at any time have got away from Khartoum, that the means of personal safety were largely and at all times at his disposal, may be anticipated as the staple of the Government defence. In other words, the Prime Minister of ENGLAND holds what a Radical evening paper has justly denounced as "the cruel and wicked theory" that a British officer may, if he can, desert his post and betray his trust. But not even Mr. GLADSTONE'S eloquence will be able to persuade the country that it was all GORDON'S own fault, and that no responsibility for his blood, and for the blood of those whom he died to protect, rests upon the present Ministry.

There is, indeed, only one member of that body who can think himself fortunate that the Session opens amid so much grave anxiety as to the future, and so much popular indignation as to the past policy of the country in reference to Egypt and the Soudan. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN may on personal grounds congratulate himself that public attention is altogether diverted from him and his doings. Had it not been so, he would have had a bad time of it in reference to his concocted affidavits and false charges against the Conservatives of Birmingham in relation to the Aston riots. As it is, he may hope that before the country has time again to waste any thought on the PRESIDENT of the BOARD OF TRADE the effect of the disclosures as to those affidavits and those charges will have passed away. But it is certainly awkward for the great Radical of the future, the possible first President of the English Republic, to have been convicted of making such statements on such untrustworthy materials. Nor are all the mysteries connected with the preparation of the affidavits, to the correctness of which he pledged himself, satisfactorily cleared up.

The latest drops of the great shower of extra-Parliamentary utterances before the monsoon of intra-Parliamentary utterances commences are to be found in the speech of Mr. COWEN at Newcastle. Mr. COWEN was as usual vigorous and incisive, and no more severe condemnation of the Egyptian policy —we use the term out of courtesy—of the Government could be found. The "mysterious fatalism which has doomed "the Cabinet to catch up the dropped links in "the policy of their profligate predecessors" was admirably described; though, perhaps, even Mr. COWEN hardly sufficiently realises the difference between the spirit of confidence with which those predecessors carried out their policy, and the half-heartedness with which their successors (more than half ashamed of being compelled to it) are following in their footsteps. The contrast between insular policy and Imperial policy, or, in other words, between Mr. GLADSTONE and Lord BEACONSFIELD, was painted in spirited language by Mr. COWEN, and his denunciation of the Multiple Control will find an echo in every true Englishman. Perhaps no passage in his eloquent speech was more effective, and at the same time more true—the two do not always go together—than that in which he described the bewildering and painful programme, the policy of makeshift, in which the Cabinet presided over by the great and good Mr. GLADSTONE has indulged:—"There "is scarcely any statement that they have "made at one time that they have not con-"tradicted at another, and there is scarcely "anything that they have refused to do that "they have not subsequently done." It would be difficult to compress into so few words a more accurate description of the course of procedure by which our responsible rulers have led us into our present position.

A steady downpour of rain is a great damper of revolutionary ardour, and many a promising popular movement—using "popu "lar" in its more modern and degenerate sense as equivalent to "mob"—has been blighted in the bud by the intervention of JUPITER PLUVIUS. Such was the case with the great meeting of the unemployed in London summoned together round Cleopatra's Needle to demand work at the hands of the Government. The weather seriously reduced the numbers expected to attend, and it was perhaps with a view of keeping out the damp that the leaders of the movement deemed it right to indulge in harangues of so inflammatory a description. Mr. HYNDMAN certainly came within measurable distance of instigating riot and murder, and did all he could to alienate the sympathies of moderate men of all classes from the cause which he advocated in language more familiar on the lips of French Communists than of English Socialists, however far advanced. The demand for *atéliers nationaux* naturally met with but little response from Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL, to whose lot it fell to receive the deputation. He was not gifted with the same perverse ingenuity as Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, who found in the sufferings of the unemployed a cogent argument in support of his Bill for reforming off the face of the earth the Corporation of London.

Mr. HYNDMAN has endeavoured in a letter to the *Times* to explain away his Embankment utterances, and he maintains that when he speaks of organising secret societies, to exact "a life for a life," and threatens Ministers with assassination, he only meant to say that he was all in favour of peaceful methods. His followers are, however, more likely to accept his oral teaching than to read his letters to the *Times*, and there was just enough of riot and disturbance, even with the reduced numbers present, to arouse an uncomfortable feeling as to what would have happened had the weather been fine, and the demonstrators assembled in their thousands, as was anticipated. It is much to be regretted that a false issue should thus be raised, and that an endeavour should be made to supersede all attempts at relieving the present distress in a legitimate manner by bringing about an immediate conflict between capital and labour. One great danger of such an endeavour is that it interferes with that display of sympathy and kindliness which the present depressed state of labour should call forth from capital. We must not, however, be blinded by Mr. HYNDMAN'S tirades to the presence among us in an aggravated form of that evil which he aspires to cure by such violent remedies. It is certainly a grim commentary on the triumphs of free trade that it should have reduced our working classes to starvation.

While Socialism in its unwashed form has been thus demonstrating on the banks of the Thames, Socialism in its more or less washed form has been demonstrating on the banks of the Isis. We do not so much refer to Canon SCOTT HOLLAND and Mr. SHUTTLEWORTH'S meetings, to be held next week, on behalf of what they call Christian Socialism, though there is as a rule much more of Socialism than of Christianity in such meetings. But the report which our contemporary the *Guardian* gives of the gatherings of the Agricultural Labourers' Union and of the Oxford Socialist League gives food for thought, and for thought not of a very pleasant description. The arch firebrand who has done so much to stir up the agricultural labourer against his employer, was the chief speaker at the meeting of the Union, but he was backed up by the President of Trinity, the Master of University, and a more or less goodly array of Professors. When we state that among the latter was to be found Professor THOROLD ROGERS, we have a sufficient guarantee for the good taste and refined language of the assembled magnates. The "profligate peer" figured freely among the orations, though the orators did not perhaps go quite so far as their brethren of the Socialist League. Among them Mr. FAULKNER, senior Fellow of University—shade of Dr. PLUMPTRE, what have we come to?—distinguished himself by referring to the gallant officer whose loss all England, except the Oxford Socialist League, is mourning, as "the scoundrel BUR-"NABY," and by winning a cheap laugh from hearers as void of good taste and of good sense as himself by the assertion that "there were "superstitions about the VIRGIN MARY as "gross as those about the Prince of WALES." These are the associates with which the youngest Canon of ST. PAUL'S will have to rub shoulders.

The vacancies at Gloucester and Oxford, caused by the elevation of Dr. BICKERSTETH and Dr. KING to the Episcopate have now been filled, adding two more to the long list of ecclesiastical preferments which have fallen to Mr. GLADSTONE'S lot. For the Deanery of Gloucester the HEAD MASTER of HARROW has been chosen. His name has been assiduously put forward by his friends whenever opportunity offered, and his enemies have not hesitated to assert that, whatever might have been felt elsewhere, his promotion would at all events be popular at Harrow. The other appointment will be more of a surprise to the world at large, though we believe that in the end it will reflect more credit on Mr. GLADSTONE. Mr. PAGET made his mark as a tutor at Christ Church, and, brought up as he has been in the school of Dr. LIDDON and Dr. KING, his theological views will commend themselves to good Churchmen. The one objection to his nomination which will suggest itself to most persons is that he is very young for so important a post. But this objection is one which every year will tend to remove; and, at the present day, in the case of Church preferment, as in other departments of public life, the race is to the young rather than to the old. At the same time we can well believe that there are many of Mr. PAGET'S seniors who will feel aggrieved at their claims being overlooked, and we feel a little sympathy with those who, having borne the burden and heat of the day, find themselves passed over in favour of a young man who has his work all before him. That he will do that work well and with his whole heart we cannot doubt, and though it will be difficult for anyone to supply Dr. KING'S place in the affections of the undergraduates, it is a matter of congratulation that his successor should be a man who has wide sympathies with and great knowledge of that rather peculiar class.

The petition from the City of London formally presented to the House of Commons on Thursday by the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex against that provision of the Redistribution Bill which deprives the City of two of its members, is one which cannot but receive the earnest attention of both Houses of Parliament. The meeting lately held at the Cannon-street Hotel to protest against the withdrawal of a privilege which is as old as the House of Commons itself and has been exercised for 600 years, was attended by a large and influential gathering, composed of men of all shades of political opinion. The chair was taken by an old and distinguished Liberal member for the City of London, Mr. R. W. CRAWFORD, who most justly maintained that the centre of the wealth, intelligence, and trade of the Empire was entitled to exceptional representation in Parliament. It is quite obvious, as Mr. HUBBARD pointed out, that the real basis of the representation should have been, not the resident or sleeping population of the City, but the electorate, which numbers 25,000 persons. The number of persons whose occupations bring them within the City, and whose interests lie in the City, is 261,000, including 57,503 employers of labour. It is not only, however, on the ground of its numbers that this electorate is entitled to four representatives. No city in the kingdom pays such a large proportion of rates and taxes, and on this ground alone London is surely entitled to at least the amount of its ancient representation. We do trust that the Conservative Party, at all events, will insist on justice being done in this matter.

So far as can be judged by external indications, the Mission in West London has been the occasion of a religious awakening among all classes, rich and poor alike, which we trust may bear good fruit. The vast congregations, the earnest preaching, the frequent and devotional services, were calculated to impress all who witnessed them. Everywhere the Church's message appears to have been received, not only with the greatest respect, but with real and heartfelt appreciation. The good BISHOP who has so lately passed away from amongst us would, indeed, have been thankful if he could have foreseen the manner in which what were almost his dying wishes have been carried out. Now that the Mission is over, it is for the parochial clergy to follow up these special efforts with renewed zeal and energy; and from this point of view we cannot but think that the decision to hold the Mission just before the beginning of Lent was a wise one, in spite of the inconvenience which it may possibly have caused to many, especially the most hardworking, of the clergy.

THE SITUATION AT HOME.

Although the terms of the Vote of Censure on the Government which Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE will propose in the House of Commons on Monday have been criticised for their moderation, they are in our opinion forcible and well-chosen, and go straight to the point. We believe that the resolution expresses both the verdict of the country on the past mismanagement of the Government, and its determination as to the policy to be adopted in the future. If the Ministerial apologies of Thursday fairly summarise, as it may be presumed they do, the case for the defence, it is easy to see that the reply of the Government to the heavy indictment to be brought against them next week will be so miserably inadequate as to be really no reply at all. Lord GRANVILLE'S explanation was the simpler of the two. Briefly stated, it amounted to this—that a year ago it was impossible to despatch an expedition to Berber from Souakim; that it was also impossible to send troops earlier up the Nile to relieve GORDON; and that Khartoum fell, not because relief arrived too late, but owing to treachery from within. Lord SALISBURY contemptuously demolished the first two pretexts in as many sentences. It is wholly unnecessary to discuss the question whether a force could have been despatched from Souakim to Berber last spring, because the Government are actually arranging to send one at the present moment; and it is equally superfluous to argue now as to the feasibility of an earlier despatch of the relief expedition up the Nile, because when Ministers did at last brace themselves up to make their "final "decision" in favour of sending it, the Nile had already begun to fall. As to the wretched plea that Khartoum was lost solely through treachery, and therefore not by reason of Ministerial procrastination in forwarding relief, what is to be said of so contemptible a subterfuge? If poor GORDON had been reached months ago, as he easily might and certainly ought to have been, the same opportunities for betraying him would not have occurred. Besides, the whole *morale* of his troops must have been far different then from what it became later. The hope long deferred of relief from without had made, we may be sure, many hearts sick within; and detestable as was the

treachery that opened the gates of Khartoum, its existence can cause little surprise. The spirit of treason must have gained in strength as time wore on, and as the prudence of making terms with the Mahdi became increasingly apparent. Thus the plea that Khartoum fell by treachery will not serve the Government; and it is too evident that the overwhelmingly heavy accusation which they now have to face before the country finds them without even a plausible defence. They are convicted already of having, as Lord Salisbury said, sacrificed Gordon to the squabbles of a Cabinet and the necessities of Party tactics.

That the Opposition will carry the country with them in their condemnation of the Government there is no room to doubt, whatever may be the formal decision of Parliament on the Vote of Censure. On the result of the division in the House of Commons it is useless to speculate, because it must altogether depend on the amount of patriotism to be found amongst Liberals, which is always an unknown quantity. Still, when it is remembered that the Government majority of 49 on the Vote of Censure brought against their Egyptian policy a year ago had actually dwindled to 29 in May, when their treatment of General Gordon was brought up for judgment, it is difficult to suppose that Ministers can feel confident of averting defeat now that the disastrous fruits of their action are so painfully apparent. Nor is it to be forgotten that the ties of party discipline are just at present less likely than usual to lead men to vote against their consciences, for a threat of Dissolution has but few terrors in a moribund Parliament. Since, therefore, a Government defeat and a consequent Ministerial crisis are by no means outside the category of possibilities, the question naturally arises, what are the position and the intentions of the Conservative Party? Advantage has been duly taken in several quarters to lecture the Opposition on the duty of having a programme, and of being prepared to assume the responsibilities of office. If by a "programme" is meant a precise and detailed scheme of policy, we may be content to say with Lord Beaconsfield that it is impossible for those who sit on the Opposition bench suddenly to have a matured policy to present to the people of this country. An Opposition, he urged, may be guided by certain views and principles, but it can never for a moment rival the information possessed by a Government. A great Party's course of action on any of the great subjects of the day can only be shaped upon the fullest information. This is a plea of which the force is obvious and incontestable, and it cannot be put aside—as the *Times*, with the bumptious and ignorant rashness that nowadays marks so many of its utterances, seems to imagine it can—by describing it as mere "cant." Apart from details, there is no difficulty whatever in describing the main principles of Conservative policy. So far as Egypt and the Soudan are concerned they are —as even the *Times* now confesses—indicated in the latter part of the Resolution which the Opposition will submit to Parliament next week. Mr. Gladstone's speech of Thursday points distinctly to a continuation of the Ministerial policy of Butcher and Bolt. The policy of the Conservatives is as distinctly that of Advance and Administer. A Conservative Ministry would insist that England, after crushing the Mahdi—not as an act of vengeance, but for the sake of preserving the security of Egypt—instead of scuttling out of the Soudan, should remain there until order was restored and the slave trade put down, and that she should then retain hold of as much of the Soudan as might be necessary from a military point of view for the protection of Egypt. In Egypt it would be the aim of a Tory Government to carry out a strong policy, to let it be clearly understood that the programme of Scuttle is abandoned, that British supremacy will be maintained, and that England is determined thoroughly to carry out alone and single-handed the work which she went to Egypt to perform. The revival of our old alliance with Germany and Austria—so rudely terminated by the precious "Hands Off" policy of Her Majesty's present advisers—would clear the way for a satisfactory solution of the question of Egyptian finance. Europe would doubtless be induced by the great Central Powers to co-operate for that end with a British Government that was really determined to act up to its responsibilities in Egypt. For what does a vigorous British policy mean for Egypt? It means the permanent maintenance of order; it means a firm and effective internal administration; it means the restoration of public confidence, the revival of industries that have languished for three years, the growth of commercial prosperity, and the increase of the public revenue. This, combined with economy of expenditure, would indeed be good news for Europe. If the British Government, under these favourable conditions, were to guarantee the Egyptian debt, it cannot for a moment be doubted that the creditors of Egypt would thankfully acquiesce in a reduction of interest, or that the revenues of Egypt would then be fully equal to the payment of the interest thus reduced. This, then, is one result which we believe would certainly be produced by the advent to power of a Conservative Ministry. The *Pall Mall Gazette* is anxious for an exposition of Tory policy all round. We may remark briefly that a cordial understanding with Germany and Austria would have a very definite and, as we think, a very obvious bearing on our relations with France and Russia. We have no sort of idea what our rather eccentric contemporary means by "men "whose one idea of a vigorous foreign policy is "a Russian war." We had always thought that the best way of avoiding a Russian war would be to allow it to be clearly understood what our obligations to India impose upon us, and to avoid irritating the Central Powers into supporting schemes of Russian aggression in Asia. On other questions—the vital ones connected with the Colonies, the Navy, and the Army—the policy of the Conservatives would most unquestionably be vigorously National, in the best sense of the term.

The question is being everywhere asked whether the Leaders of the Tory Party are prepared, in case of a Ministerial defeat, to accept the responsibilities of office. To take the place of the present Administration is to succeed to an inheritance such as no statesman could covet. We do not imagine for a moment, however, that such a consideration would have the least weight in determining the course of the Conservative chiefs. They would, we are convinced, be found fully prepared, at whatever sacrifice of personal feeling, to do their duty to the Queen and the country. Nor is there any doubt that as a general rule an Opposition is bound to hold itself in readiness to assume office if it should defeat the Ministry of the day. This, however, is a rule which admits of exceptions. In 1873 Mr. Disraeli declined to form a Government, on the ground that he felt precluded, for certain reasons, from asking for an immediate Dissolution; while, on the other hand, he could not conduct public affairs during a period of several months until the close of the Session, with a large hostile majority arrayed against him. Now, supposing Mr. Gladstone's Government to be defeated on the coming Vote of Censure, and to resign office, what will be the position of the Tory Party? If a Conservative Cabinet were formed, it would be out of the question for it dissolve Parliament immediately, or before the new Reform Bill became law. On the other hand, a Tory Ministry might fairly object to conduct the affairs of the Empire in the face of a large hostile majority in the House of Commons—especially a majority under the control of men who are notoriously unscrupulous in their methods of political warfare. These are considerations which cannot be ignored. We do not say that they are conclusive. All that we urge is that the Conservative Leaders will not be open to the charge of want of patriotism if, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, they should feel themselves unable to take office at present. At any rate, if they should be called upon to form a Government, they would be perfectly justified in insisting upon their own conditions. They will have a clear right to demand the enactment of a special proviso by which both the Redistribution Bill and the Franchise Act shall come into force at once, in order that an Appeal to the People may be made at as early a period as possible.

THE SITUATION IN THE SOUDAN.

It is only natural that the news of General Buller's withdrawal from Gubat should have been the cause of considerable uneasiness to the public mind. From a military point of view there can, of course, be no doubt that it was the best course to take, whether adopted on Sir Redvers Buller's own responsibility, or in consequence of orders from Lord Wolseley; and all credit is due to General Buller for the promptitude with which the movement has been executed. So long as there was any hope of rescuing Gordon or the garrison of Khartoum, the British force had an excellent reason for pushing across the Bayuda desert at all hazards, and in pressing forward towards the beleaguered city. Now that that object is no longer attainable, the circumstances are altogether changed. To hold the position near Metammeh was not an end in itself. Gubat was occupied as being, so to speak, on the road to Khartoum. We are not going to Khartoum just at present; probably not till after the hot season is past. Therefore there could be no further use in General Buller's remaining at Gubat, at a distance of a hundred and fifty miles from his base, and in a country where supplies were exceedingly difficult to get. Now, too, that the fall of Khartoum has liberated the besieging forces, it would have been in the highest degree unwise for General Buller, with his small detachment of 1,500 men, to attempt to arrest the progress of the Mahdi and his hordes, which probably number—all due allowance being made for Arab exaggeration —at least 30,000. More than this, it is quite conceivable that another good reason exists for allowing the Mahdi's forward movement to continue for the present unchecked. It may well be that Lord Wolseley intends to draw the enemy on to some particular point at which he can be forced to accept battle at a great disadvantage. It has been pointed out that the Mahdi's vast host, alike ill-disciplined and poor in commissariat, will probably not venture far away from the Nile, where they can always obtain water and supplies. When all the circumstances are considered—the absence of any need for holding Gubat now that the approaching hot season compels a postponement of the advance on Khartoum; the extreme unadvisability, to say the least, of encountering the Mahdi's huge army with a mere handful of men; and the general necessity of concentrating the British force, at present broken up into three fragments—taking all these things into account, there really does not seem any justification for the somewhat extreme tone of anxiety with which the military situation is spoken of in certain quarters. That it is serious may be readily admitted; but there is no reason to suppose that Lord Wolseley has not foreseen and provided against the eventualities that have arisen, although his first plan has been modified.

It is, of course, undeniable that anything resembling a retreat of the British troops before the forces of the Mahdi is likely to have a bad moral effect both in the Soudan itself, and, we fear, elsewhere also. The least indication of weakness on our part might be the signal for the tribes who have hitherto held aloof from the Mahdi to join his cause. If General Brackenbury continues his advance up the Nile, such a forward movement will do much to neutralise the ill effects of General Buller's apparent retreat. The question has been discussed whether, however, General Brackenbury will be recalled to Korti. There seems no ground for thinking that there will be any necessity for such a course, which would imply a somewhat violent dislocation of Lord Wolseley's plans. If he does not now try to reach Berber, he may probably establish himself at Abu Hamad, from which point it would not be difficult for him on the one hand to effect a junction with Lord Wolseley if occasion should arise; while, on the other, he will still, in the event of a part of Lord Wolseley's army being temporarily surrounded at Korti, be able to join his force to that from Souakim when it arrives. Meanwhile everything goes to show the extreme unwisdom of the refusal of the Government at home to make Souakim the basis of further operations last year. What was left undone then has to be done now at a great disadvantage; and it is plain that it is from Souakim alone that Lord Wolseley's army can be reinforced.

Amongst the troops to be despatched inland from the Red Sea coast for this purpose it is pleasant to know that an Australian contingent, perhaps numbering 2,000 men, is to be included. It is difficult to describe adequately the feelings with which we of the old country have received this offer of help from our Australian Colonies and from Canada. From the Australians, in particular, who have had some reason of late to complain of their treatment by the Home Government, such a display of good feeling comes with peculiar grace. We are glad to note that they have had the sound sense to perceive that the sentiments of England are distinct from the sentiments of the men who rule England. The kindly offer of our Australian kinsfolk has met with an acknowledgment which they will certainly know how to appreciate, in the form of a gracious message of gratitude from our beloved Sovereign, in which she speaks as much on behalf of her people as on her own. The same ready tact which prompted the Queen to utter this appropriate and timely expression of the national feeling has also led her to address her soldiers at Windsor in words which will thrill the hearts and kindle the loyalty not only of her soldiers, but of the whole nation—words of which we can only say that they are worthy of herself, worthy of the great nation over which she rules, and worthy of the brave men of whom the most distinguished military commander in Europe has just declared that they are not an army of soldiers, but an army of heroes.

CHURCH PROGRESS.—I.

The new issue of what is now, we trust, a well-established annual publication, the *Official Year-Book of the Church of England*, supplies from authoritative sources a mass of important particulars relating to the position which the Church occupies in the country at the present day. The venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has earned our best thanks for the care and accuracy with which this volume has been compiled. The information to be derived from it cannot but serve to enlighten public opinion as to the character and extent of the Church's work; while, on the other hand, Churchmen themselves may learn much from these pages concerning what may be called the weak points of that work. The usefulness of such a *Year-Book* has, in fact, just been illustrated in a remarkable manner. It so happens that, during the last few days, a considerable amount of public interest has been aroused in the subject of Church Extension in London, owing to the publication by a leading Dissenting organ of certain so-called "statistics," the purpose of which, notwithstanding the *Nonconformist's* somewhat overdone protests of disinterestedness, it is by no means difficult to divine. The figures put forth by the London Congregational Union profess to deal with the number of "sittings" provided in the various buildings appropriated to Divine worship in London—that is to say, within the area which the Registrar-General and the Metropolitan Board of Works recognise as London. The proportion of "sittings" to the population has increased from 29·28 per cent. in 1851 to 34·55 per cent. in 1884. This increase, however—so the Dissenters declare—is due more to their efforts than to those of the Church. They allege that in 1851 the Church provided 59·25 per cent. of the "sittings," while the Dissenters could only claim 40·75 per cent. Now the tables are, so to speak, turned. The Dissenters say that in 1884 the number of their "sittings" was 51·2 per cent., and the Church's only 48·8 per cent. of the whole.

Our preliminary reply to these assertions is that they are wholly baseless, and that the figures here given both for 1851 and for 1884 are simply fraudulent. Those for 1851 are extracted from the official census of that year; and it is a matter of common notoriety that the religious statistics included in the census of 1851 were obtained by Dissenting artifices of the grossest kind. In a multitude of cases the dishonesty was practised of counting the same congregation twice over. The whole thing has been exposed over and over again, and it is impossible not to be surprised at the brazen impudence with which these lying figures have once more been trotted out to do duty on this occasion. The consciousness of guilt on the part of the authors of these frauds was so great that ever since their detection, whenever a census has been taken —in 1861, 1871, and 1881—they have energetically and successfully protested against the inclusion of any religious statistics, being of course afraid to face the results of an impartial inquiry. After thus refusing to allow any authentic return to be made, they now have the audacity to demand implicit belief in the statistics which they have themselves drawn up. This would have been a tolerably cool proposal even if it were not absolutely certain (as it is) that these last figures are quite as undeserving of credence as the returns so disgracefully falsified in 1851. The *Nonconformist's* estimate of the relative proportion of Church and Dissenting "sittings" is vitiated by the simple circumstance that it underestimates by about one-half the number of buildings other than parish and district churches used for Church services. And this brings us to another point. The choice of such an area as that of London in the Registrar-General's sense is purely arbitrary. It does not coincide with any ecclesiastical division, and hence it is impossible to give any exact particulars of the mission-churches and other buildings within it. Still, some idea of the serious *suppressio veri* of which the *Nonconformist* has been guilty can be formed when it is remembered that in the diocese of London there are 383 such buildings or rooms, providing accommodation for 93,042 persons, while in the diocese of Rochester there are 270, capable of holding 63,190. Thus the total number of

such "sittings" is 156,232, nearly all of which must be in London, as against the *Nonconformist's* false estimate of 64,209. These figures are taken from the *Official Year-Book* already alluded to. Even if the Dissenting calculation had not been intentionally unfair, its worthlessness for any practical purpose would appear from the fact that many of the clergy have declined to furnish any information whatever to the concoctors of the *Nonconformist's* hoax. Another and most important consideration is, that the number of "sittings" cannot even approximately represent the number of people who actually sit in them on any given day. The services in nearly all our London churches are very frequent on Sundays. Five or six Sunday services are quite common. A Communion, either early or late; morning, afternoon, and evening services; and an extra service for children—five services in all—make a list which is hardly above the average. Many churches, of course, have a good deal more than this. With Dissenters the case is altogether different; and therefore it is clear that any comparison based upon the respective number of "sittings" is utterly fallacious, because a Church "sitting" implies a good deal more than a Dissenting "sitting."

Besides—and this is a point which must have occurred to our readers at the outset—no conception of Religion could be more unspiritual than one which thinks to quantify and weigh its effects by counting "sittings." Such an idea could only have occurred to a mere controversialist bent upon establishing some proposition as to the relative "success" of an Established Church and the so-called "Free "Churches." The only "success" worth thinking about is success in winning souls; and that is not to be judged of by any method that takes into account the number of "sittings." The obvious drift of such calculations is, of course, to show that the English people is gradually giving up the old Church, and becoming more attached to the Dissenting sects. That is a proposition which it is quite easy to test by a much simpler method than that of the *Nonconformist*. In 1873 Mr. DISRAELI stated in the House of Commons that of the total number of marriages performed in England 75 per cent. were celebrated in the churches of the Establishment. The proportion now is 83·5 per cent.—a very remarkable increase in eleven years, and one which indicates the mind of the English people far better than calculations about "sittings." A similar conclusion may be drawn from the fact, stated in Convocation last week, that in our public cemeteries the interments in the consecrated portion greatly exceed in number those in the unconsecrated part.

On the general subject of Church Extension throughout the country we shall have something to say on future occasions. We have confined ourselves to-day to an examination of one of the most recent instances of the preposterous system of wholesale misrepresentation by which the enemies of the Church carry on their attacks. The fact is plainer every day that Dissent is rapidly losing its religious character, and becoming more and more distinctly political in its aims. The Wesleyan Methodists, as a rule, form an honourable exception to a state of things under which the various sects are losing their hold upon the distinctive religious dogmas to maintain which they originally came into existence. They are undergoing a process of mutual assimilation to each other, and all seem to be drifting together into a vague, washed-out, undogmatic religionism. Their c'amour for "unsectarian" Education, their alliance with unbelievers, and their hearty support of Atheism *plus* Nastiness in the person of Mr. BRADLAUGH, are significant facts which all point in the same direction. The principal function of modern Dissent is, we repeat, a political one—to form the "backbone," as Mr. GLADSTONE once aptly put it, of the Radical party. Dissent is not and never was the religion of the poor. It derives its chief support from the lower middle stratum of society, the class of small shopkeepers. The working-man, as a rule, will have nothing to say to it. There are many indications that the Church of England is gradually attracting to herself the sympathies and support of the labouring classes. That is an observation which anybody who is acquainted, say, with the East of London, or with the poorer parts of our large towns, will admit to be fully justified. The existence of such an organisation as the Church of England Working Men's Society, which has done so much good work in the London Mission, bears witness to a fact which is among the few cheering signs in the present dark prospects of our country's future—namely, that the Church is gaining ground in the affection and loyalty of those to whose hands recent legislation has committed the preponderance of power.

It is evident that some of the Bishop of Winchester's observations on the subject of the Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament have been wrongly reported. In moving for a Committee of the Upper House of Convocation to consider the subject, his Lordship is represented to have said that "the primitive practice was an innocent and even beautiful one, but when it grew to the height it did in the Middle Ages it became something they could hardly designate by a word short of idolatry." We cannot think, and decline to believe, that Dr. Harold Browne would have used either these words or any language of the same kind.

To imagine that the charge of idolatry could possibly be brought in connection with the reservation of the Holy Sacrament would be to suppose that the elements have been or could be the object of adoration—a hypothesis which is, on the face of it, untenable. No adoration was ever offered to the elements, but to our Lord present in the Sacrament. And this is a matter which, it is important to observe, is wholly independent of any particular belief as to the *manner* of His Presence. *Any* belief in the Real Presence, whether after the mode of Transubstantiation or any other mode, must involve the Eucharistical adoration of Christ—in other words, the worship of our Lord present in His ordinance. Even on the theory which denies His presence altogether, Eucharistic adoration would not be open to the charge of idolatry, because it would still be worship paid to Christ, and to no other object.

There is only one form of religious belief which could logically pretend to denounce Eucharistic adoration as idolatrous, and that is Socinianism. The Socinian Christ, if there were such a being, would not be a proper object of worship at all, and any adoration paid to him would be idolatrous—Eucharistic adoration included.

It is sincerely to be hoped, for the Bishop of Winchester's own sake, as well as for the sake of others, that an authoritative disclaimer will at once be made of words which are calculated to cause grievous scandal.

Reviews.

NEW NOVELS.

The House on the Marsh was one of those happy ventures which from time to time are made by writers unknown before, who happen to hit the public taste, so to say, between wind and water. The books which achieve that success are not always much superior to their fellows, and there is a certain element of luck in such a success which prevents the critic from recognising it as an indisputable passport to popular favour. But though it may often be achieved by works of inferior merit, still when it has been once achieved it ensures a ready acceptance for another book by the same author; so that *A Dog with a Bad Name** comes before us under more favourable auspices than if it were the work of an unknown writer. It is not, however, solely dependent on its author's reputation for its success. We are not, indeed, quite prepared to say that it is equal to its predecessor, or likely to achieve so universal an amount of popular favour as was achieved by its predecessor. But it is certainly a good deal above the average of modern sensational novels. One tribute to its merits we feel bound to pay, at the expense of our critical reputation. The secret which underlies it defied our penetration, though that penetration has been sharpened by no small experience in regard to similar works. We are not, indeed, quite satisfied with the final explanation, and find one or two points in it which seem to require to be cleared up. But we could not indicate these points without going at some length into the plot of the novel, and this would be most unfair upon the author. For it is this underlying secret which constitutes the main attraction of the novel before us, and a premature revelation of it would seriously interfere with the reader's enjoyment. Even if we could present a sufficient outline of the plot within the limits of space at our disposal we should hesitate to do so, as it would be unjust alike to Miss Warner and to her readers to deprive her book of its chief attraction. We would counsel even those who are most prone to indulge in the bad habit of looking at the end of the third volume before launching into a novel not to give way to that bad habit in the present case, as it will seriously interfere with their enjoyment. It is on the mystery which enshrouds the plot that the author most relies, though there are some graphic sketches of character and some shrewd observations which prevent the attraction of the novel from entirely resting on the element of mystery. The story made its first appearance in the *Family Herald*, and yet retains no little of the flavour which we are apt to associate with such an origin. But it is an unusually good specimen of its class, and the reader who once embarks upon it is little likely to lay it down till the mystery is solved. As this is not done till the very last chapter, the reader is kept for a long time on tenterhooks, and people whose nerves are easily shaken are not recommended to read *A Dog with a Bad Name* just before going to bed. If, however, they want to be kept awake during the earlier part of the evening, it would be difficult to find a more exciting novel, or one better adapted to such a purpose than that which is here presented to us, which we can heartily recommend to the attention of all students of contemporary fiction.

* *A Dog with a Bad Name.* By Florence Warner. In Three Vols.—London: Richard Bentley and Son, 1885.

We have from time to time, while *The Talk of the Town** was running its course in the pages of the *Cornhill*, commented on Mr. James Payn's latest novel—latest, that is to say, when regarded as a completed work, for he has already in the pages of *Good Words* embarked on a new venture, entitled "The Luck of the Darells." It has been our duty, not a very pleasant duty, when dealing with so well-established a favourite, to point out the inferiority of this novel as compared with the writer's former works, and we have not hesitated in the performance of that unpleasant duty. But we are not the less bound to admit that, regarded as a whole, it strikes us more favourably, and we are better able to appreciate the literary merit of the book, than when it was presented in instalments in the numbers of the *Cornhill*. We have of course to repeat the obvious objection against the idle disguise with which the writer proposes to veil what he himself acknowledges to be a transparent secret, and we think that the book would have been just as effective if the certainly transparent pseudonym of Erin had not been adopted for the forger of *Vortigern*. To carry out with consistency the exposition of "the transparent secret," Mr. Payn ought also to have altered the title of the forged drama. Those who are acquainted with the name of Vortigern are also acquainted with the name of Ireland. The familiar doggrel of the lines which, while comparing the famous forgery at Drury Lane with a farce which was at the same time running its course at Covent Garden, said—

> That Vortigern's Shakespeare, as some of you say,
> We all must admit is "The Lie of the Day,"

are associated in the minds of all acquainted with them with the name of Ireland, and to speak of the hero by the name of William Henry Erin is to follow the example of the ostrich rather than of some more experienced dissembler. But, after all, what's in a name? and whether we regard the young impostor who was for a time *The Talk of the Town*, and now reappears as the hero of Mr. Payn's novel, as Erin or as Ireland, is a matter of small moment. Under either name we start with an antecedent prejudice against him, and it is to Mr. Payn's credit as a specimen of literary skill that he should so far have removed that prejudice as to make us feel tolerant of his sympathy with the audacious impostor. This he has done by furnishing him with a motive for his imposture which commands our sympathy; and Miss Margaret Slade, old Erin's niece, is a very powerful motive. She is a most winning young lady, and when at last William Henry's imposture is discovered, our sympathy for her goes far to outweigh our righteous indignation against William Henry himself. There is also considerable power shown in the concluding portion of the work, when the discovery of the imposture slays Margaret's love for the impostor. She does well in accepting as a husband in his place the true and faithful Frank Dennis, whose high sense of chivalrous duty had prevented him from exposing the impostures which he had at so early a stage detected, though certainly nothing in William Henry's life befits him so well as the leaving of the brightest and best part of it, when he recommends Margaret to accept a love more worthy of her if not more devoted than his own had ever been. Next to Margaret our sympathies are enlisted on behalf of old Erin, whose idolatry for the great Bard was so shamefully worked upon by the forger. He is an admirably-drawn character, and his very pigheadedness has something attractive in it. Nor must we omit to notice the incidental sketches, cleverly drawn and cleverly introduced, of some of the notables of the time. Sheridan and Kemble, Mrs. Jordan and the Duke of Clarence, are life-like viguettes. A word of praise is also due to the get-up of the two volumes, and especially the reproduction in them of the very clever drawings with which Mr. Harry Furniss illustrated the story during its progress through the *Cornhill*. It has not been customary in reprinting novels from magazines to reproduce the illustrations, but we trust that the example thus set may be followed in the future, especially where the magazine stories are so successfully illustrated.

The author of *The Prettiest Woman in Warsaw** has prefixed to her novel a prefatory notice disclaiming any intention of depicting Madame Modjeska in the person of her heroine. Such a disclaimer is, as a rule, evidence of intention; for the principle *qui s'excuse s'accuse* is not unfairly held to apply to such apologies. We believe, however, that Miss Collins is sincere in her denial, and that the suggestion would not have been made by any of her critics had she not herself suggested it. Certainly it is not likely that the same energetic controversy will be waged over her book as over *Miss Bretherton*, in which a sister artist is said to have been portrayed. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the novel apart from any factitious interest which it may be supposed to derive from this imaginary portraiture. Thus considered, we cannot say very much in its favour; and there is a decided flavour of nastiness about it which may perhaps be in keeping with the scene in which the main action of the drama passes, but is certainly little calculated to commend it to English readers. The heroine is Mdlle. Wanda Milovitch, of the Warsaw Theatre, though perhaps her sister Zadwiga, who is represented as hardly less beautiful, but certainly less self-reliant, may contest the post with her. When the story opens, Wanda is engaged to Prince Nico, a young Roumanian of a remarkably jealous temperament, and there is an amusing scene in which she encounters and defeats the two other Roumanian Princes who, for family reasons, are anxious to break off the engagement. One of these is Prince Demetri, a decided *vaurien*, who plays a prominent but by no means a respectable part in the working out of the story. He persecutes both Zadwiga and Wanda with his attentions, and is deservedly killed off under circumstances which impart to the story that *soupçon* of mystery which is essential to the success of a modern novel. In the end Prince Nico and his wife and Zadwiga and her husband, a young Englishman named Arthur Dene, live happily ever after. The picture of Roumanian society which is given in the course of the book is by no means encouraging to the sympathisers with the newly-established kingdom, and is we venture to hope somewhat overcoloured. Certainly such a personage as the Princess Miralda, with the cynical indifference which she shows to the honour of her female guests, is no favourable specimen of the Roumanian *noblesse*. The most attractive character in the story is old Karol, the faithful retainer of the two sisters, and he may perhaps be described as the one redeeming feature of *The Prettiest Woman in Warsaw*, which, though it possesses a certain amount of interest and shows a certain amount of talent, can neither by the interest thus possessed or the talent thus shown compensate for the low tone of morality which it emphasises, but which—in justice to Miss Collins, we should add—it does not glorify, as some similar novels have done, as heroic.

* *The Talk of the Town.* By James Payn. In Two Vols.—London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1884.

* *The Prettiest Woman in Warsaw.* In Three Vols. By Mabel Collins.—London: Ward and Downey, 1885.

SOME REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

Macmillan opens with a review of Mr. Cross's Life of George Eliot by Mr. John Morley. The *Spectator* is puzzled with the discrepancy of the lady's private life and character from the impressions conveyed in her popular novels. Mr. Morley, on the contrary, expresses his profound satisfaction at finding that "the woman and the "writer were one." True, he thinks that letter-writing was not her art. The letters are "stiff and "full of fatiguing moralities, gravities and pon-"derosities," but he has often had the same feeling on closing the third volume of her novels, and he has "tried hard in vain to love her poetry." In "energy, in inspiration, in the kindling "of living faith in social effort, George Sand, not "to speak of Mazzini, takes a far higher place." This is but faint praise for one who, we are assured in conclusion, will remain "a wise benignant "soul for all right-judging men and women." What Mr. Morley admires is "the loftiness of her "character," "a life marked by indefatigable "labour after generous purposes, by an unsparing "struggle for duty, and by stedfast and devout "fellowship with lofty thoughts." This is all very fine, if we could rely on the panegyrist. But we are further told that the lady started, like Cardinal Newman, "with a fervid evangelicalism; then "with curious rapidity threw it all off to embrace "with equal zeal the harsh and crude negations "of the *Westminster Review;* that the second "stage did not last much longer than the first, "and that while she always remained at a respect-"ful distance from Comte, she arrived (by his "help and Strauss's) at a positive faith and a "semi-Conservative creed," which expressed itself in reading aloud in organ-like tones some of the finest chapters in the Bible, and a "strong outflow "of sympathy to all the great religions of the "world, especially Hebrewism and Christianity." She regretted her loss in being unable to practise the old ordinances of family prayer, and would have liked to "go to church or chapel constantly, for "the sake of the delightful emotions of fellowship "in religious assemblies, the very nature of which "are a recognition of a binding belief or spiritual "law which is to lift us into willing obedience and "save us from the slavery of unregulated passion "or impulses." These are her own words, and brave ones they are; and it is melancholy to add that among "the reasons against her following "such an inclination" the chief was that she had no faith in God or a future state. Her "spiritual "law" was of her own making, and its power over the passions and impulses of nature was evidenced by her living with another woman's husband and being the mother of an illegitimate family. Mr. Lewes being an accomplished critic, is said to have been of great use to her writings; but as both were "without God in the world," and self-excluded from decent society, we need no other explanation of the "central gloom" which overshadowed the unhappy woman's life. The husband whom she married after Mr. Lewes's death would have better served her literary fame, as well as her personal reputation, by respecting her own vehement protest against being victimised by a biographer. We have room only to notice a fair review of Lord Tennyson's *Becket*, and a further instalment of the promising "Millionaire's Cousin."

Colonel Malleson's series of "Ambushes and "Surprises," in the *Army and Navy Magazine*, is represented this month by an account of the taking of Innsbruck by Maurice of Saxony, whose treacherous conduct towards Charles V. seems, by the way, almost to have Colonel Malleson's approval. Mr. Charles Marvin, in "Russia's "Secret Agents in Afghanistan," once more sounds the note of alarm. He holds that it is impossible to keep Russian agents out of Afghanistan, and recommends our neutralising their intrigues by maintaining English officers along the frontier and at Herat. If we do not "pervade" Afghanistan, Russia will; and it is better to confront her intrigues at Herat and Cabul than at Delhi and Lahore. The other most noticeable article is Mr. L'Estrange's "More about the Iron Duke."

Mr. Leathom, in the *Antiquary*, reminds us of the insecurity of English coasts in the past. There was the incursion of the Dutch under De Ruyter in 1667, which Evelyn said was "a dis-"honour never to be wiped off." It was due to a Government that had prepared no defences through a miserable economy. How thankful we ought to be to live in better times, under the rule of good Mr. Gladstone, who is so careful to keep all the defences of the country, and especially the Navy, in such admirable efficiency! In 1636, when we had Turkish pirates on the coast, Queen Elizabeth, as might have been expected, looked after the defence of the coasts, with the result we all remember. The Norfolk coast was very insecure in the fifteenth century, and in the reigns of Henry V., Edward III., and Edward I. there had been several attacks on the south coast by the French fleet. Mr. J. T. Bent's article on the "Estradiots," the Greek mercenaries who dispersed themselves over Europe after their expatriation by the Turks; Mr. Wheatley's account of "Essex and his London House"; Mr. Keyser's opening part of "Church Walks in England," which deals with churches in the neighbourhood of Oakham, are all well worth reading. Several shorter papers and the second part of Mr. Carew-Hazlitt's "Venice before the Stones" complete an unusually good number of this excellent serial.

Book-Lore, Mr. Elliot Stock's new venture, has reached its third number, and seems a healthy bantling. Lord Charles Bruce contributes another part of his account of the Althorp Library. Mr. Bullen's "Carols Old and New" is noticed, and one of Mr. H. G. Wells's illustrations reproduced. "Prizes in Book-Collecting" is a chatty little article worth reading; and there are several other papers of interest to those for whom the magazine is specially intended, besides reviews and correspondence. The printing and get-up of this periodical are, as might have been expected, all that could be wished.

The *Mission Field* contains a short record of the Bishop of Guiana's visit to several missions to the Indian tribes in his diocese, and a fuller account of a journey in the North-West by the Bishop of Saskatchewan.

We are glad to notice that Messrs. Cassell have just commenced to reissue in monthly parts two such excellent works as *Our Own Country* and *Illustrated Universal History*. Both are widely known and appreciated, and deserve the success they have met with.

The American *Church Eclectic* prints an interesting and timely discourse delivered recently by Dr. W. J. Seabury, Rector of the Church of the Annunciation, New York, on the union of divergent lines in the succession of the American Episcopate. Of the other original articles there is a good one by Mr. Livermore on the Foundation of Duty, in which he rightly teaches that *all* duty is really duty to God. Duty to the State springs, he maintains, not from a social compact, not on some act or promise of our own, but on Divine Authority. All this is perfectly true; but we are surprised that, having got so far, Mr. Livermore should not have gone a little farther, and have recognised the fact that a Revolutionary Government rests and can rest upon no authority whatever except man's violence. Unless mere might is right, we fail to see how a Republic can be said to be invested with Divine Authority. In default of any other Government, it is no doubt best, for the sake of public order, to conform to the laws of a Republic; but that is by no means the same thing as obeying a Government resting upon the sanction of Divine Authority.

The American *Churchman* contains a long letter addressed by the Bishop of Delaware to the Bishop of New York, stating his objections to the action of Dr. Potter in receiving the profession of a clergyman, Mr. Huntington, as a Brother of the Order of the Holy Cross. The arguments used by Dr. Lee against the principle of Monasticism are of the familiar kind. The Bishop maintains at starting that, the institution of Religious Orders being a mere human expedient, Monasticism itself is therefore a human institution. It is certainly the fact that the various monastic societies were founded at sundry times in accordance with the dictates of human opinion, though of course under ecclesiastical approval. But Monasticism in itself is certainly a Divine institution. To say nothing of the example of Elijah, St. John Baptist, and indeed of our Saviour Himself, the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is absolutely explicit on the subject, and the Church Catholic has ever upheld Monasticism as of Divine ordinance on this very ground. The Bishop of Delaware's long letter does not touch on these points. But they are of the essence of the whole question.

The February part of *The Season*, just received is, as usual, replete with features which will make the magazine of great value to its lady readers. There is a full description of the newest Paris fashions, with three full-page engravings, designs in fancy work, needlework, &c., and a large sheet containing ten flat patterns and many designs of various kinds.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Mr. F. E. Fenton has published an English translation of M. Mathias Duval's well-known book on *Artistic Anatomy* (Cassell & Co.), which cannot fail to be found of great value to art students. The author observes, in his introductory chapter, that the rigorous anatomical exactitude that characterised Hellenic art was based, not on anatomical study, but on that experimental knowledge of the human body which the prevalence of gymnastic exercises afforded so many opportunities of acquiring. At the time of the Renaissance artists recognised the necessity of a precise anatomical study of the human form, and all the great painters and sculptors of that epoch gave careful attention to dissection. M. Duval might have added that they attached an exaggerated importance to the study of anatomy; the result being that they thought too much of exhibiting their anatomical knowledge. Still, it is no doubt an all-important preliminary to acquiring correct notions of the proportions and form of the human body, that the artist should have an exact acquaintance—first, with the skeleton, because the bones alone furnish us with the measurements of the body and its limbs; and, secondly, with the muscles, which so largely determine the form of the body in its various movements and attitudes. Of an importance all its own is a knowledge of the muscles of the face, by which human passions and emotions are expressed. Accordingly the present work is divided into two parts, dealing respectively with Osteology and Myology, while the muscles of the physiognomy receive special treatment. We have nothing but commendation for the manner in which M. Duval has discharged his task. As he admits, the study of anatomical details is at first dry; but he has certainly succeeded in investing the subject with interest. The plates throughout are well executed, and illustrate the text admirably. We own to having experienced one disappointment. We were led by the preface to expect some highly instructive remarks upon certain anthropological questions, such as those connected with the facial angle, and with brachycephalic, dolichocephalic (why cannot our scientific men use the terms "short-headed" and "long-headed"?), and mesaticephalic types; but, on turning to that part of the work dealing with these matters, we find them dismissed with a few meagre and not particularly accurate observations. We have only to add that the editor has done his work exceedingly well, and that the book is nicely printed and got up.

Lady Barker has won a high place among the purveyors of wholesome and interesting literature for the young folks. A welcome addition to that literature is supplied in the *Letters to Guy* recently published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. Guy is her son, and the first thought which will suggest itself to youthful readers is how awfully jolly it must have been for Guy to have a mother who could write him such interesting letters. West Australia supplies their subject-matter, and the writer, officially bound to do by her position as Governor's wife, enters thoroughly into the interesting and hopeful stage of its existence through which that colony is now passing. She dwells with much warmth on the loyalty of nature, simplicity of life, and manliness of heart which the colonists now possess, and though of course, having regard to the capacities of her correspondent, she does not indulge much in political disquisitions, the picture which she gives of a thoroughly home-like place, "poor but honest," is very attractive. The honour and hospitality shown to her husband and herself wherever they went she accepted in the spirit in which they were offered, and she thus describes that spirit, in language hearty but rather ungrammatical, which she puts into the mouths of her much-cherished West Australians:—"We love our dear Queen so much that we are "ready to be cordial and pleasant to whoever she "chooses to send to represent her." But it is not so much the loyal demonstrations with which the Governor was received as the everyday sights and scenes of the colony which she describes for the benefit of her boy left at home. Not a few striking natural history sketches, graphic pictures of the new country, and amusing anecdotes of domestic pets are to be found in these letters, and we shall probably give to them the most faithful as well as the most effective of recommendations when we say that the *Letters to Guy* are in no way inferior to the writer's previous works.

It is impossible to read the Rev. Arthur Brinckman's *Notes on Rescue-Work* (G. J. Palmer) without being convinced of the writer's thorough competence as an adviser on this subject. The wise counsel which he tenders is evidently the fruit of a wide and continuous experience, intense religious earnestness, and deep sympathy, combined with a rare tact and sterling common sense. Mr. Brinckman is not only moved by devoted zeal on behalf of souls; he is also, in the best sense, a thorough man of the world. This little book is calculated to do a vast amount of good, and we hope it will be read and pondered over by all who are engaged in the important but difficult work of which it treats.

The *Clergy List* for 1885 (John Hall), which has just been published, bears evidence of careful revision to date, and no effort seems to have been spared to make it a most useful and accurate book of reference. The official information of the changes in the various dioceses has been checked by postal communication with every known clergyman. Much additional information has been added, and reference from one portion of the work to the other has been facilitated. The alphabetical list of the clergy gives the degree, university, date of ordination as deacon and priest, the name of the ordaining Bishop, and the present appointment held by each clergyman; while the alphabetical list of benefices gives the post town, county, incumbent, curate, patron, value and population of each parish. All the English dioceses are given separately, in their Rural Deaneries, with the names of the Archdeacons and the Rural Deans. The work also contains a list of patrons, of the Archbishops and Bishops of the various sees from their foundation to the present time, the Cathedral establishments, the Army, Navy, and foreign chaplains, and the clerical masters of our public schools. In an appendix we find the ecclesiastical changes which could not be incorporated in those parts of the work which had been printed when the appointments were announced.

Mrs. Oliphant has reprinted from *Blackwood's Magazine* two of those remarkable stories of the border land between our daily life and the spiritual life which surrounds us for which she has shown so wonderful a talent. It was, if we mistake not, in the *Beleaguered City* that she first revealed that talent, and her *Two Stories of the Seen and the Unseen* (Wm. Blackwood and Sons) are but little inferior in interest and attraction to that remarkable work. It is not probable that the readers of "Ebony" will have forgotten them; but they will be glad to have them reproduced in the more permanent form in which they will also appeal to many who are not readers of "Ebony." We doubt if there is any other English writer who could have written them, and, though when we come to consider them in cold blood we may perhaps doubt if the writer has not ventured somewhat too far in the attempt to lift the veil which separates the Seen and the Unseen, it is difficult while we are reading Mrs Oliphant's striking narratives to pause to consider them in cold blood. "Lady Mary" is perhaps the more striking of the two, and certainly the more audacious; but the sketch of the old minister in "The Open Door," is, if possible, yet more delicately drawn. We may doubt if the little volume will be altogether suited to nervous persons, or, indeed, to persons of strong nerves who read it late at night. At such a time we own to an unpleasant unwillingness to look over our shoulder, and to an uncanny sense of something being in the room besides its ordinary inhabitants, which make our enjoyment of it a fearful joy at the best. But in broad daylight we are better able to appreciate the delicacy of touch, the refinement of feeling, the literary skill, and the skilful tone of mystery which distinguish these *Two Stories of the Seen and the Unseen*, as they distinguished the *Beleaguered City*, from the ordinary run of ghost stories.

The story of *The Wreck of the "Nisero"* (Sampson Low and Co.), and of the captivity of the crew of that unfortunate vessel in Sumatra, is not one which Englishmen can contemplate with much satisfaction. We feel, as we retrace the history of that crew, how far removed we are from the days when the "Civis Romanus" doctrine was accepted by English statesmen as an essential part of their political creed. Without ranking ourselves among the thoroughgoing admirers of Lord Palmerston, we cannot but feel that in the days of that sturdy old statesman, who, with all his faults, was so staunch a supporter of England's honour, such an episode as the ten months' continued captivity of British sailors in Sumatra would have been impossible. The story of that captivity has been told by Mr. Bradley, the third engineer of the ill-fated vessel, with a straightforward and sailor-like simplicity which more than atones for the writer's lack of literary skill. Some of the illustrations are very interesting, and especially that at page 133, which represents the last resting-place of the seven of the author's shipmates who lost their lives in that far-off land.

An admirable series of meditations by the Rev. George Seymour Hollings, which have formed the substances of addresses given in Retreats, are now published under the title of *Considerations of the Wisdom of God* (Masters). They are marked at once by an intimate knowledge of Catholic theology, and by a spirit of earnest reverence and devout piety. Mr. Hollings's teaching in this volume may be summed up in the words, "The "knowledge of God is not to be sought through "the perfecting of any process of human reason "developing a philosophical system, but in the "surrender of our life to the One Who is God "Incarnate." The meditations are arranged for a Retreat of four days; being preceded by the usual introductory address, and finally summed up in some concluding considerations. To each day of the Retreat are allotted three meditations. On the first day the subjects considered are the gift of individual personality and its awful character; the philosophical spirit and its inability to reach the knowledge of God; and the conditions upon which alone the heavenly wisdom can be attained. In the meditations of the second day it is shown that the revelation of God to man began by a personal knowledge; that the discipline of temptation is needful as a means of sanctification; and that the spirit of mortification is the spirit of Holy Poverty. On the third day of the Retreat the points treated of are individual vocation and Holy Obedience; the interior Paradise of the soul and the spirit of Holy Chastity; and the purification and development of the soul in the heavenly life. The fourth day's meditations are devoted to the contemplation of Christ our Lord as the one Way to all heavenly wisdom; of the Holy Spirit as communicating the heavenly wisdom; and of the Sacramental life in which is continued the quest of that wisdom. The concluding address on the fifth morning has for its subject the Sacred Humanity of Christ as the abiding channel of the Divine communications. We are tempted to give a single extract as a specimen of Mr. Hollings's power of clear exposition:—

> The anthropomorphic language of Holy Scripture has at least a twofold significance. It is not merely an accommodation to man's intelligence, it is anticipatory of the Incarnation. Its use keeps before us the truth that the Incarnation is not a violation of the Divine Nature, not an outrage upon God: for man was created in the Image of God, and thus Jesus Christ, Who is after His Divine Nature the express Image of the Father, assumed to Himself, in taking our manhood into His Godhead, a fitting instrument for His revelation, a fitting medium for His manifestation. . . . . We are not to think of that Body, now glorified, as though It were a Veil hiding God from us, but rather as being what It is indeed, the Vehicle of the Divine manifestation.

We sincerely thank Mr. Hollings for a volume which, though primarily intended for priests and members of religious communities, is nevertheless adapted to the needs of others.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Our correspondent the Rev. J. E. Rudd, rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes:—

"The opening days of the ensuing month of March wear a cold and rough aspect. The *first* day is likely to be very stormy.

> March comes in with an adder's head,
> But goes out like a peacock's tail.

As the month advances the temperature will become more and more genial, and very favourable to the growing crops. The interval between the 16th and 31st is likely to bring fine warm weather. The aspect is exceptionally favourable."

Mr. C. E. Fripp is about to proceed to Souakim, to accompany General Graham's force on its march to Berber as the second Special Artist of the *Graphic* in the Soudan. Mr. Fripp represented the *Graphic* through three South African campaigns—accompanied Lord Chelmsford's column for the relief of Ekowe, and was in the square at Ulundi. He is also an officer of the 20th Middlesex (Artists') Volunteer Corps.

At the meeting of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland on Tuesday, February 24, the following communications will be received:—1. "Notes on the Race-types of the Jews," by Dr. A. Neubauer, M.A. 2. "The Racial Characteristics of Modern Jews," by Joseph Jacobs, Esq., B.A.

Sir Henry Gordon is said to have come to the resolution to prepare for immediate publication the letters and other scattered writings of General Gordon, a considerable number of which are in his hands.

A new volume of sermons by the Rev. W. M. Statham, entitled *The Abiding Christ*, is announced for early publication by Mr. Elliot Stock. The same house announces *Geology and Genesis*, by E. C. Robinson; and *Notes for Boys on Morals, Mind, and Manners*.

It appears from the Master's report to the Guild of St. George, which would have been published a year ago, but that Mr. Ruskin has "lost himself day after day among spitefully irreconcilable sums and sorrowfully unintelligible scraps," that the Guild, although it has not attempted much of its original object of reclaiming waste lands, has yet done a great deal of excellent and practical work in another direction. The Master has expended altogether £1,000 on behalf of the Guild (nearly half of which sum seems, however, to have come from his own pocket) in accumulating objects of study "which more than most men he is qualified to select and arrange." These have been partly books, jewels, minerals, and shells, but principally drawings done on commission by various artists whom Mr. Ruskin has employed to be "quick with their tablets" while the restorer still stays his hand. Mr. Ruskin is thus supplementing the Arundel Society in a most useful manner, and the appeal which he makes for funds to carry on the work at Amiens, Rouen, Venice, and elsewhere, ought to meet with a hearty response.

Efforts are being made to obtain for the National Portrait Gallery an exceedingly fine picture representing Pitt addressing the House of Commons in 1794, which is at present in the galleries of the Belvedere at Vienna. Hickel, a German artist in high repute towards the close of the last century, is the painter, and this work of his is stated to be of great merit. The Belvedere officials, however, have relegated it to the limbo for surplus works, and here it was that Mr. E. Stanhope, M.P., last year discovered it. The picture contains 200 portraits, and those which have up to the present been traced are pronounced excellent likenesses. It takes in both sides of the House, and conspicuous among those fronting Pitt is his life-long rival, Charles Fox, while Addington is in the chair, and Lord Mornington is among those on the Treasury bench.

Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, the public analyst for the City of London, has laid before the City Commission of Sewers his report on articles analysed by him during 1884. In all 285 analyses were made, including 84 of milk, 53 of drugs, one of honey, one of bitters, three of pepper, one of vinegar, four of tea, 15 of arrowroot, 21 of bread, eight of mustard, seven of whiskey, seven of beer, 28 of disinfectants, and 52 of water. Occasional examinations were also made of the raw sewage of the city. The New River Company's supply of water to the city was periodically analysed, and the mean results compared favourably with those hitherto recorded, the quantity of organic matter being low, and the water invariably bright and of good colour. There had been no further rise in its mineral constituents noted in his last report, the solid residue after evaporation rarely exceeding 23 grains in the gallon. The milk supply to the City was not so pure as could be wished, and an admixture of water was frequently detected. No prosecutions, however, were instituted, owing to the chronic difficulty of the Government chemical authorities having fixed a standard for their guidance below that sanctioned by the general experience of public analysts throughout the kingdom, such standard having been arrived at from the examination of very exceptional milk, in which it had been found that an apparently healthy cow occasionally furnished milk of low quality. Without presuming to question the propriety of avoiding any possible source of injustice, he (Dr. Saunders) must point out that the adoption of the Somerset House standard opened a very wide door to unscrupulous dealers, if, indeed, it did not actually offer a premium to offenders. The difference between the standard indicated by the Government chemists and that by the Society of Public Analysts allowed a dishonest dealer to add 15 per cent. of water to his milk with impunity. The Local Government Board having expressed a desire that more attention should be paid to the analysis of drugs, he had included the same in his work, selecting such as were in common use. The result had been satisfactory, as might be expected from the character and position of the real chemists in the City of London. He had also examined disinfectants, the exact composition of which could not be ascertained without careful analysis, there being no other method of checking the pretensions of the numerous substances paraded before the public, some of which were absolutely valueless, if not positively fraudulent.

Mr. Alma Tadema's picture called "Plato" is, says the *Athenæum*, rapidly approaching completion. The philosopher is on his visit to Sicily, where he is living in a seaboard town attended by a few favoured disciples, and welcomed by the cultured section of the community. The scene represented is part of the forecourt of a large temple on a cliff near the Medi-

terranean. It is girt by dark ilexes, grey olives, and other trees where, between the foliage and the stems, the blue sea, an undercliff, and sands are distinguishable in sunlight so intense that the water looks like a huge sapphire, and the white crests sparkle as they fall. Seated between the shafts of two enormous Doric columns of white marble, portions of the peristyle of the temple, Plato, his face a little worn by study and his fading hair bound by a fillet, graciously, carefully, and with animation expounds his philosophy. He more particularly addresses a beautiful and stately matron in white robes, who, seated on the bench at his right, listens to the philosopher with intelligent diffidence as noble as it is charming. At the lady's left side leans her pretty daughter of eight years old, who turns her fair face to watch the features of her mother with a tender confidence which is delightfully ingenuous. The child's dark-blue garment supplies the most emphatic point in the tone-scheme of the picture, and contrasts with, while it intensifies, the brighter rose, grey, green, pale amber, white, and azure elements of the colouration, tints which are proper to the robes, the trees, and the buildings about us. At the lady's right side a handsome brunette, in ample light-coloured draperies, reclines at length and rests on her elbow on the bench. She, like her companions, listens to the discourse of Plato. The expression on her face is that of one who is absorbed by solemn music and forgets every other circumstance. Between this group and the next is a wide space occupied by the ilex trees, with glimpses of the sea between their stems. The next group consists of three male disciples who have followed Plato to Sicily, and now sit before him on the grass intently listening to his instructions. M. Rajon has undertaken to make a large and exhaustive etching from this picture. It is not certain where the painting will be exhibited.

The *Times*, in an interesting article on the good work done by the Ayr and Wigtown Archæological Association, says:—"Wigtown is identified by ecclesiastical students with the austerities and the woes of Covenanters. It has been annexed to the realm of imagination by the piteous tragedy of which the genius of Scott localised the last stage within its borders. Wigtown antiquaries are not satisfied with these distinctions; they have dug deep below the surface, and are bringing up materials upon which the fancy may feed as plentifully as upon the martyrdoms of Margaret M'Laughlan and Margaret Wilson, and the Bride of Lammermoor. To the present generation it seems surprising that its forefathers should have remained completely indifferent to the relics under their feet. A pit cannot be sunk without laying bare a whole series of strata of human history. Wave after wave of human occupation and manners has rolled over Galloway, and left behind it traces which it requires only a little patience to decipher. Lake dwellers have been in the vicinity, and their habitations and tools are easily visible. Pict and Norseman and Anglo-Saxon have been in possession; and names from their languages testify side by side to the dominion of all three. Archæology demonstrates that nothing which has ever been so passes away that its footprints cannot be discerned. One social layer builds its foundations and floors of the bones of another. . . . . If spots which have been the scenes and centres of wide-spreading national influences ever deserve reverence, the cavern and its monuments unearthed last summer on the iron coast of Glasserton can demand it of Scotch visitors. St. Ninian's origin is a subject of controversy. Irishmen have assigned him Kildare for his birthplace and an Irish King for his father. By Welshmen he is accounted a Cambrian. More generally, and by all Scotchmen, he has been believed to be a native of Galloway, where, at the place afterwards called Whithern or Whithorn, he was baptised and trained to holiness. As soon as he was grown to manhood he made a pilgrimage to Rome, and there he dwelt for many years high in Papal favour. By the Pope he was consecrated Bishop, and commissioned to evangelise the heathen in his country of Western Scotland. Though the district in which his family resided had been converted, the southern Picts were commonly pagans still. On his way home he visited St. Martin of Tours, whom tradition asserts to have been his uncle. From St. Martin, as our correspondent has said, he is supposed to have borrowed masons. They built for him a stone church, either, as is usually thought, on the Isle of Whithorn, or, as some authorities hold, at the town of Whithorn, several miles inland, on the site occupied towards the close of the twelfth century by the more splendid Cathedral of St. Martin. St. Ninian had just completed his Candida Casa when, in the year 397, he heard of the death of St. Martin. To St. Martin he dedicated it. From the church at Whithorn he preached the Gospel far and near. That was the focus from which his teaching radiated. He returned to die there in peace and honour when his task among the southern Picts was ended. For his private meditations, after the manner of St. Martin and other saints, it has been the current legend of Galloway that he retired to the lonely cavern on the seashore which is now being explored. Guidebooks had marked it out as St. Ninian's Cave before Dean Stanley directed public attention to it. The discoveries of crosses and the inscription on the pavement afford strong support to the theory that this was indeed the Galloway Saint's retreat. The question, if any, would be whether the wall, pavement, and crosses which have been found, though properly associated with him, may not belong to a date somewhat prior to that of his church. French masons worked for him. It seems unlikely that, after they had taught the use of proper tools, he and his disciples should have gone on executing their sculptures and shaping their blocks of stone with the rude pointed instruments of which alone the marks are apparent in the grotto. Missionary Bishops like him saw no merit in the employment of bad tools when they knew of good. If St. Ælred's biography, written seven or eight centuries after the period of its subject, but based on an earlier narrative, is to be trusted, St. Ninian's kinsfolk and neighbours at Whithorn were Christians before his visit to Rome. The cave may have been employed for retreat by him or them before his initiation at Tours into the mysteries of civilised masonry. In any case, it is among the primitive cradles of the Christian Church. Though Kings and Queens have ceased to perform annual pilgrimages to St. Ninian's shrine, and ambassadors are no longer despatched with gifts to the Saint from European Courts, this rocky tumbled cell preserves an odour of sanctity. It is not like a lake cabin, or a Druidical circle, a mere monument of the dead past, a milestone on a stage of human history which has been traversed and is done with.

At an ordinary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held recently, Mr. H. H. Johnston read a paper, entitled "An Expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro." The lecturer in the course of his paper, said that his journey to the Alpine district of Eastern Africa originated in the formation of a joint committee of the British Association and the Royal Society, which placed £1,000 at his disposal for the purpose. After encountering many difficulties in the way of obtaining the necessary servants for the expedition, he left Mombasa towards the end of May last at the head of a caravan of 120 men, about a quarter of whom deserted him on the road. He, however, reached the mountain at the beginning of June, and after residing for some time in Matara's country, called Moslin, which was remarkably fertile and well watered, he and his party changed their location to Taveita. On their way they crossed the cultivated zone, which ended at an altitude of 5,500ft., and entered a healthy district with pleasant grassy knolls and many streams of running water, finally camping beside a lovely fern-choked brook at 6,500ft. high, the whole ascent being very gradual. The succeeding day they passed through stunted forest, not unlike an English woodland, where the trees were hung with unfamiliar ferns and creepers, and where deliciously scented parasitic begonias trailed their pink flower-bells from branch to branch. The dracæna, which is cultivated by the Wa-Chagga to form hedges, here grow wild. Tree-ferns were abundant and handsome. Above 7,000ft. the orchilla moss draped the forest trees in long grey festoons. Tracks of elephants were very numerous. The other noticeable inhabitants of the forest were dark-blue touracoes and treehyraxes. Wart-hogs were occasionally met with up to 8,000ft. At 9,000ft. they were camped for the night by a small spring of water in the midst of a grand bit of forest not of that stunted character that marked the lower woods. He caught a chameleon and many beetles here, also shooting touracoes and pigeons. The next day, having walked several miles eastward to find a good place for settlement close to water, he selected an admirable spot on a grassy knoll rising above the river of Kilema, which takes its source near the base of Kimawenzi. The altitude of this spot was nearly 10,000ft. It was about four miles in a direct line from Kimawenzi and about seven from Kibô. Here the men built about fifteen cosy huts thatched with heather and admirably fashioned to resist both rain and cold, the whole settlement being surrounded by a stout fence or boma as a wise precaution against possible assault. Here the thermometer descended every night to one or two degrees below freezing point, but owing to the natives bringing an ample supply of provisions for sale he was able to enjoy delicious beefsteaks at 11,000ft. above the sea. Proceeding higher up the mountain, over grassy undulating hillocks, varied with patches of snow, at 12,600ft. they struck a pretty stream flowing in a S.S.W. direction, amid thick vegetation. Here were signs of buffaloes, and bees, wasps, and sunbirds were still to be seen. Beyond 13,000ft. up the mountain he discovered that the water was warm, the temperature of the trickling mud being 91deg. Fahrenheit. Vegetation only grew in dwarfed patches and the ground was covered with boulders, while at 13,700ft. he saw the last resident bird. A few hundred feet higher up the mountain was enveloped in fog, but suddenly the clouds parted, and he looked upon a blaze of snow so blinding white under the brief flicker of sunlight that he could see but little detail. Pressing forward he at last, despite mountain sickness, reached the chain of snow, having attained to within about 2,000ft. of the summit, which is estimated to be at an altitude of 18,000ft. On the way downwards by another route the party again passed through miles of well-watered fertile country, "made for an European settlement, and singularly English in appearance," which was, however, entirely uninhabited, except by buffaloes and elephants. The average elevation of this district was between 7,000ft. and 8,000ft., the temperature ranging from 43deg. at night to 75deg in midday. They ultimately again reached Taveita, whence, finding that his funds would not hold out longer than to the end of November, he made for Zanzibar, and thence for England. Mr. Johnston's paper was listened to with much interest, and some of his personal experiences caused a great deal of amusement.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. F. H. Beaven, to vicarage of St. Chad, Stafford. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

Rev. E. A. Birrell, Curate of Pulborough, to Vicarage of Sidlesham. Patron, the Bishop of Chichester.

Rev. R. Bren, to Vicarage of Immanuel, Birmingham.

Rev. S. Bucknell, to Vicarage of Newburn, Northumberland. Patron, the Bishop of Newcastle.

Rev. H. M. Butler, Head Master of Harrow School, to be Dean of Gloucester. Patron, the Queen.

Rev. C. Codd, Vicar of Beaminster, to Vicarage of Broad Windsor, Bridport.

Rev. W. M. Dewé, to Rectory of Landford. Patron, Earl Nelson.

Rev. A. H. Fairbairn, to Rectory of Fawley, Bucks. Patron, Mr. William Dalziel Mackenzie, of Fawley Court.

Rev. F. F. J. Greenfield, to be Chaplain of the Sussex County Asylum, Hayward's-heath.

Rev. C. R. W. Hardy, to Vicarage of Offley. Patron, Mrs. Anne Salusbury Hughes.

Rev. M. H. Hayman, to Vicarage of Hutton Magna. Patron, the Vicar of Gilling.

Rev. G. F Head, Vicar of Charles, Plymouth, to Vicarage of Christ Church, Hampstead. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. C. W. Heald, to Rectory of Chale. Patron, W. Carr, Esq.

Right Rev. Dr. Hellmuth, formerly Bishop of Huron, Canada, to Rectory of Bridlington. Patrons, the Simeon Trustees.

Rev. W. F. Hobson, to be Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of Canterbury.

Rev. W. Johnston, Incumbent of Shelland and Gipping, to be Chaplain to the Stowmarket Union.

Rev. E. Kemble, to Vicarage of Coniston Cold. Patron, Mrs. Tottie.

Rev. E. F. Letts, Minor Canon and Precentor of Manchester Cathedral, to Rectory of All Saints', Newton-heath. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Manchester.

Rev. T. Lewis Vicar of Towyn, Merioneth; to be Rural Dean of Estimaner, Diocese of Bangor.

Rev. C. G. T. Maturin, Curate of St. Barnabas's, Pimlico; to Rectory of Amcotts. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. G. Oliver, to Vicarage of St. George's, Darlaston. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

Rev. S. H. Parkes, to be Chaplain to the Swinton Industrial Schools belonging to the Manchester Board of Guardians

Rev. F. G. M. Powell, to Incumbency of St. Matthew's, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Rev. C. D. Rae, to Vicarage of Newchapel. Patron, the Trustees.

Rev. W. Reed, to Vicarage of All Saints', Wandsworth. Patron, the Rev. R. N. Buckmaster.

Rev. E. H. Sankey, Vicar of Gorsley-with-Clifford's Mesne; to Perpetual Curacy of Wragby, Wakefield. Patron, Mr. Rowland Winn, M.P.

Rev. F. J. Smith, to Perpetual Curacy of St. John's, Bishops Hull. Patron, the Rev. F. J. Smith.

Rev. J. Standish, to Vicarage of Scarrington-with-Aslockton, Notts. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.

Rev. E. P. Stanley, to Rectory of Wootton Courtney. Patrons, Eton College.

Rev. B. S. Tucker, to be Chaplain to the *Urgent*.

Rev. J. S. Tute, to be General Preacher in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Rev. C. W. Vaughan, to be Chaplain to the *Valiant*.

Rev. W. R. Villiers, Vicar of Newborough, Peterborough, to Vicarage of Kingston-cum-Ilford, Sussex. Patron, Captain Rosseter, R.A.

Rev. H. B. W. Whitmore, to Rectory of Quatt. Patron, the Rev. F. H. Wolryche Whitmore.

Rev. H. Wilson, to be Perpetual Curate of Holme, Westmoreland. Patron, the Vicar of Burton.

Rev. D. Woodroffe, Curate of Grantham, Lincoln, to Rectory of Stroxton. Patron, Sir William Welby Gregory, Bart.

Rev. R. S. Woodward, to be Perpetual Curate of All Saints', Eastbourne. Patrons, the Trustees.

Rev. P. W. Wyatt, Minister of St. Philip's, Regent-street, to be Domestic Chaplain to Lord Byron.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ELY.—Revs. Charles Butler, B.A., to St. Andrew-the-Less, Cambridge; Charles Caldecott James, M.A., to Papworth St. Agnes; Robert George McClelland, B.A., to St. John, Bury St. Edmund's.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.—Revs. James A. Davenport, M.A., to St. Luke's, Hanley; George Hemming, to Essington; Theodore Mayo, M.A., General Licence; Thomas Rogerson, to Cannock; Robert R. Young, M.A., to Handsworth.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.—Rev. Joshua Davies, to St. Peter's, Hindley.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Revs. John Thomas Lawton, B.A., to St. Thomas, Bedford, Leigh; Robert Minnitt, M.A., to St. Luke, Preston.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE.—Revs Ernest Delabere Guilleband, B.A., to Corbridge; Charles Frederick Russell, A.K.C., to St. Paul, Alnwick

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF RIPON.—Revs. Thomas Battle, to Harewood; Doveton V. Stoddart, to Romaldkirk; Charles S. Vyvyan, to St. Jude, Manningham; Joseph Whiteley, to St. Andrew, Bradford.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—Revs Herbert Reginald Bone, M.A., to Gravesend; Henry Marshall Burdett, M.A., to St. Michael's, Stockwell; Arthur Henry Finn, to Kew and Petersham; Marmaduke Hare, to St. Mary's, Battersea; Charles George Ledger, B.A., to Holy Trinity, Wallington; Herbert Hamilton Lucas, M.A., to Ascension, Balham-hill; Joseph Wareing Mangin, B.A., to St. John-the-Divine, Kennington; Paul Petit, B.A., to Aylesford; Clifford Dalhousie Ramsay, to Chelsham; Lewis Arthur Smith, M.A., to Lee; Price William Evan Williams, to St. Peter's, Vauxhall.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.—Revs. William Henry Higgs, M.A., to Holy Trinity, Harrow-green; Herbert Giles Brabant Smith, to Rickling; William Wright, to Bocking.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.—Rev. Gilbert Alfred King, B.A., to Avebury.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL.—Revs. Sidney Agar Cuthbert, to Mansfield Woodhouse; Robert Hope, to Old Radford, Nottingham.

OBITUARY.

Jan. 21, the Rev. William Israel Francis, aged 41.

Feb. 9, at Bu-bey Rectory, the Rev. William Falconer, for forty-six years Rector of that parish, aged 84.

Feb. 11, at Norton Subcourse Vicarage, the Rev. William Rimington, Vicar of the parish, aged 50.

Feb. 12, at St. Paul's Rectory, Old Charlton, the Rev. William Henry Pritchett, M.A., Rector of St. Paul's, Old Charlton, Rural Dean of Woolwich, Hon. Canon of Rochester, and Proctor of the Clergy in Convocation for the Diocese.

Feb. 13, at the Priory, Titley, the Rev. George Francis Coke, Vicar of Titley, aged 55.

Feb. 13, at Seamer Vicarage, York, the Rev. John Robert Ingo, for nearly forty years Vicar of the parish, aged 87.

Feb. 14, at 26, North Bailey, Durham, the Rev. Henry Barrett, J.P., formerly Vicar of Pelton, aged 78.

Feb. 16, at Newland Vicarage, Coleford, the Rev. William de Lancey Lawson, aged 75.

Feb. 16, at Downing Lodge, the Rev. Thomas Worsley D.D., Master of Downing College, Cambridge, aged 87.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the Rev. H. M. Butler, D.D., Head Master of Harrow School, to the Deanery of Gloucester, which becomes void by the promotion of Dean Bickersteth to the See of Exeter.

The Regius Professorship of Pastoral Theology in the University of Oxford, which Dr. King vacates on his appointment to the See of Lincoln, has, with Her Majesty's permission, been offered to the Rev. Francis Paget, vicar of Bromsgrove.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has arrived at Lambeth Palace, where letters should be addressed.

The *Guardian* believes that the Bishops of Lincoln and Exeter are to be consecrated at St. Paul's on St. Mark's Day (April 25th) or on the feast of SS. Philip and James (May 1st).

Bishop Wordsworth's deed of resignation of the See of Lincoln (which was accepted on the 9th inst. by the Archbishop of Canterbury) was on Wednesday deposited in the principal registry of the province. The diocese is therefore now vacant. The resignation had to be exhibited at the Home Office, and as the Bishop did not require any retiring pension, nor the Palace of Riseholme to live in, the law officers held that no Order in Council was necessary to complete the matter.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has agreed to arbitrate between the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough, and the Restoration Committee in relation to their dispute concerning the restoration of the Cathedral.

The Bishop-designate of Lincoln (Canon King) has appointed Canon Bright and the Rev. Charles Gore to be his examining chaplains.—*Manchester Guardian.*

A meeting of the executive committee of the Central Council of Diocesan Conferences was held on Thursday; present—the Dean of Lichfield (in the chair), Lord Egerton of Tatton, Mr. R. T. Gurdon, M.P., Archdeacons Sumner, Hannah, and Emery, Chancellor Espin, Canon Howell Evans, the Hon. and Rev. Latimer Neville, Mr. J. Robinson, and Mr. G. H. F. Nye, assistant-secretary. It was agreed that the next meetings of representatives to the council should be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 17th and 18th, and the following subjects were adopted for discussion at the meeting:—1. Adjourned debate on Ecclesiastical Dilapidations; 2. Social Purity; 3. Church Defence; 4. Infidelity; 5. Religion and Science.

Dr. Hellmuth, formerly Bishop of Huron, Canada, and for a short time assistant to the late Bishop of Ripon, has accepted the rectory of Bridlington, offered him by the Simeon Trustees, in the room of the late Canon Blakeney. Dr. Hellmuth was Dean of Huron from 1866-70, in which latter year he was appointed Coadjutor-Bishop, with the title of Bishop of Norfolk, and on the death of Dr. Cronyn in 1871 he succeeded to the see, which he resigned two years ago.

The Rev. R. F. Wilson, vicar of Rownhams, Prebendary of Salisbury, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop, has been elected Proctor in Convocation for the clergy of the diocese of Winchester, in the place of Canon Sumner, who now sits as Archdeacon of Winchester.

It has been decided that a testimonial shall be presented by the diocese of Exeter to Bishop Temple on his translation to London, as a mark of appreciation of the zeal and faithfulness with which he had discharged his duties during the fifteen years he had been Bishop of Exeter.

The Dean of St. Paul's writes to the *Times* in favour of the monument to Bishop Jackson, which it is proposed to erect in his Cathedral. Dr. Church says:—"We asked for about £3,000. The fund has now reached £1,260. It is not, I am sure, too sanguine to hope that, in the City and diocese where so many honoured and loved him, what remains to raise the fund to the amount contemplated may be readily and soon made up."

It has been decided that the public memorial to the late Dean of Bangor shall take the form of a Scholarship at the University College for North Wales, an institution in whose foundation he evinced deep interest. About £1,200 has been collected. The Dean and Chapter have acceded to a request by Mrs. Symes, who recently presented a reredos, to be permitted to place in the chancel of the Cathedral a carved oak screen as a memorial to the late Dean Edwards.

The Rev. William Henry Pritchett, Rector of St. Paul's, Old Charlton, Kent, and Hon. Canon of Rochester, who died last week at the Rectory, Old Charlton, graduated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, taking his Bachelor degree as a wrangler in 1846, and proceeding M.A. in due course. He was formerly a Fellow of his college, and was ordained deacon in 1846, and admitted to priests' orders in 1848. He had held the rectory of St. Paul's, Old Charlton, since 1864, was appointed Rural Dean of Woolwich in 1875, Honorary Canon of Rochester in 1879, and Proctor for the diocese of Rochester in 1880.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will preside at a meeting of past and present Wellingtonians which is to be held in Lambeth Palace at 3 p.m. on Saturday next, for the inauguration of a school mission which it is proposed to establish in a destitute district of London.

The first of a series of lectures, under the auspices of the All Saints' Working Men's Society, was held in the clubroom, Higher Chatham-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester, on the 13th inst., by Mr. James Taylor, hon. treasurer. Mr. Councillor Samuel Ashcroft presided. The lecture was entitled "The Early British Church," and the lecturer showed that Christianity was introduced and the Church established in this country during the lives of some of the Apostles. The Rev. Dr. Burton, of All Saints', Manchester, proposed, Lieut. F. Pratt seconded, and Mr. John Towers supported a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer. Mr. W. Bostock moved, and Mr. J. Black seconded, a similar vote to the chairman.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (who is guardian of the See of London during the vacancy) having issued his "commission" to Dr. Walsham-How, the Bishop-Suffragan of Bedford, the handsome new chancel, transepts, and side aisles recently added to St. Stephen's Church, East Twickenham, were consecrated on Saturday afternoon. There was a full choral service, and Bishop Walsham-How preached the sermon. The Archbishop of Canterbury's principal registrar, Mr. John Hassard, attended with his grace's "commission," and read the sentence of consecration.

Some correspondence has passed between Mr. John Gamon, legal secretary to the Bishop of Liverpool, and the Rev. J. Bell Cox, incumbent of St. Margaret's, Princes-road, in that city. It appears that a Mr. Hakes has made complaint to the Bishop of certain details of ritual practised in the church. Mr. Gamon thereupon writes to the incumbent, and assures him that any concession he may make is not to Mr. Hakes, but to the Bishop, and for the sake of the peace of the diocese. Further Mr. Gamon calls attention to the altered circumstances with regard to the rules of law laid down in such cases at the present date, as compared with those of four years ago, which circumstances render action on the part of the Bishop now necessary. Mr. Cox replies directly to the Bishop. He points out that if it be right now to make concessions, it was right to do so five years ago, when his Lordship punished him by refusing to license his curates, a prohibition which has been in force ever since. If Mr. Cox is worthy of prosecution now, he was so then. But four years ago the Bishop said in Convocation that he declined distinctly to sanction any prosecution, and Mr. Cox shows that the Bishop of a diocese has the power of veto without assigning any reason. Mr. Cox also takes occasion to remind the Bishop that the report of the Royal Commission has tended to discredit the Ecclesiastical Courts by showing that it was never intended that cases of doctrine and ritual should be tried in them. As to peace in the diocese, Mr. Cox says there has been peace for five years, and there would be still but for irritation felt by certain persons at the consecration of the church of St. Agnes in January last by the Bishop. Concession now, at the threat of prosecution by an outsider, would be an insult to his Lordship, when it had already been refused to one who asked for it as a Bishop and a friend. St. Margaret's, it is pointed out, has no aggrieved parishioners, and Mr. Hakes, the complainant, has nothing to do with the church, but comes as an outsider to disturb a united congregation. The Bishop is also reminded that the number of communions made in one year was 9,235, that 40 candidates are presented on an average every year for confirmation, and that voluntary offerings have defrayed all the expenses of the services and the clergy of the church, which has no endowment. After the Bishop's kindness, it is, Mr. Cox concludes, all the more difficult for him to decline to accede to his Lordship's request. The Bishop has, it is stated decided to allow the prosecution of the Rev. J. Be Cox for Ritualistic practices.

Dr. Temple (the Bishop of London Designate) was present at a public meeting in Derby on Monday night, called by the Social Purity Alliance; the Bishop of Southwell presiding. Dr. Temple said that the conscience of the nation was now looking at social purity in a way in which it had not regarded it before. After referring to the progress of the great temperance movement, the Bishop said that amid all the wide diversities of opinion on religious matters the heart of the nation was being roused to the fact that there was something more important and more far-reaching before their very eyes—a work to be done far transcending in importance any other which could be named. This great wave of feeling that was passing over the whole country was touching men's souls with a new fire, and was producing new and nobler thoughts which had not been entertained before. A great cry was going up, "Can this evil be tolerated any longer?" and he asked them to join them in working out this reform. It was high time that they did battle with some of the degrading opinions which prevailed, and held aloft the standard of purity, and maintained with all their might that it was possible by the grace of God to live a pure and noble life. The influence of comradeship was very great, and by banding themselves as comrades in this great work they would do important service in helping men to say that they would cling to the purity which had been given them, and by God's help would not let it go. He urged them to preserve a high Christian chivalry for the honour of women. He cared little by what means men chose to advance the national life; all he stipulated was that they fought the battle hard. There was no stain so black as that which a man put upon his own soul for life when he parted with his innocence, and there was no sin which more surely lived and lingered in his conscience than that of an impure life.

The Bishop of Rochester has issued the following special prayer for use in his diocese on behalf of our soldiers in the Soudan:—

"O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Give peace, if it please Thee, to that distant land where our soldiers are contending. Give them fortitude in danger, mercifulness in victory, and cover their heads in the day of battle. To the heathen who know not Thy name, reveal Thyself as God and Father; and in the wisdom of Thy redeeming love make even war to work for Thy Heavenly Kingdom. We ask this for His sake who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Rev. William Falconer, M.A., rector of Bushey, Herts, who died a few days since at the advanced age of eighty-four, was a man of high scientific attainments and an excellent linguist and mathematician. He belonged to a family long resident in Bath. He graduated at Oriel College, Oxford, taking his Bachelor's degree as a first-class in Mathematics and second class in *literis humanioribus* in 1824. He proceeded M.A. in 1827 at Exeter College, of which college he was for many years a Fellow and tutor. As Public Examiner in Mathematics and Physics he examined Lord Blachford, Lord Sherbrooke, the present Dean of Christ Church, and the late Lord Canning. He was presented to the rectory of Bushey by Exeter College in 1839. Mr. Falconer was the author of a translation of *Strabo*, in Bohn's Classical Library, a work in three volumes, published in 1857.

Mr. Gladstone, Lord Salisbury, and Earl Granville have replied as follows to the inquiry of an Accrington correspondent—Are the Bishops and clergy of the Church of England State-paid? Mr. Gladstone's secretary writes:—"Sir,—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to your letter, desires me to inform you that the clergy of the Church of England are not State-paid." Lord Salisbury's secretary writes:—"Sir,—I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. In reply I am to say that the Bishops receive no grants from the State, but they receive a revenue from ancient endowments given to the Church." Lord Granville's secretary says:—"Sir,—In reply to your letter I am desired by Lord Granville to state that tithes existed in England before Acts of Parliament, though the present mode of assessment and payment was settled by the Tithes Commutation Act, 6 and 7 William IV., c. 79, and subsequent statutes. I am to add that you will find a short summary of the origin of tithes, which is very complicated, in Blackstone's *Commentaries* or other textbooks of English law, or in most encyclopædias.

The London Mission was brought to a close on Tuesday night with a special thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey, intended mainly for the clergy and others who had been engaged in the work. The sermon was preached by the Archbishop of York. In nearly all the churches that have joined in the mission the proceedings were closed with special thanksgiving services, consisting of a final address from the missioners, with collects, hymns, and the *Te Deum* as a special act of praise. In some cases the mission clergy distributed memorial cards to those who had taken part in the work either by personal service or regular attendance. In a few instances, as at All Souls', Langham-place, the mission has proved so successful that it will be continued, so far as the evening services are concerned, during the present week. Among churches that have not been mentioned, St. Saviour's, Pimlico, deserves notice for the thorough manner in which the mission has been worked by the Revs. E. Burridge, H. Wilson, and A. W. N. Deacon. The latter clergyman on two occasions addressed the 1,400 women employed at the Government soldiers' clothing establishment which is situated in the parish. At Christ Church, Woburn-square, the work of the missioner, the Rev. H. Pelham Stokes, was greatly facilitated by the careful preparation of the parish by the vicar, the Rev. Glendinning Nash, Chaplain to the Marquis of Londonderry.

The Rev. Thomas Worsley, D.D., Master of Downing College, died on Monday. The late Master was the senior of the Heads of Houses, having held the office of Master for upwards of forty-eight years. He was a younger son of the Rev. George Worsley, rector of Stonegrave and Scawton, by Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Cayley, and was born in 1798. His elder brother William was, in 1838, created a baronet, and died in 1879. Mr. Worsley was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which society he was a foundation scholar. He graduated in the Mathematical Tripos of 1820, being third Senior Optime. In 1824 a lay Fellowship fell vacant at Downing College by the resignation of Mr. Rolfe, afterwards Lord Cranworth. The Master and Fellows elected Mr. Worsley to the vacant Fellowship as a clerical Fellow, and within a few months of his election Mr. Worsley entered into Holy Orders. On May 25, 1836, a vacancy was created in the Mastership by the death of Mr. William Frere, and on June 23 in the same year Mr. Worsley was elected Master. The choice of the Fellows was challenged by an appeal to the Visitor of the College, the Lord Chancellor, on the ground that, according to the true meaning of the college statutes, a clerical Fellow was not eligible for the Mastership. After a lengthy hearing the election of Mr. Worsley was held to be valid. In 1844 he was appointed Christian advocate, an office now abolished. For many years he held the family living of Scawton, near Hemlsley, in the county of York. The late Master married, in 1842, Katharine, daughter of Mr. Stansfield Rawson, of Wastdale Hall, Cumberland, who survives him.

In a pastoral which was read in his churches on Sunday, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford (Dr. Vaughan) said—"The wicked are more numerous and more troublesome than ever. Secret societies plot and carry out, at least in part, their diabolical designs against the State and civil order of society itself, by the perpetration of fiendish crimes in the name of patriotism, an idea much invoked, but little understood. You detest and denounce these secret societies with their accursed plots and works as you are bound to do by every dictate of your consciences and by the law of God and of His Church. They are the enemies of God and man."

In St. Paul's Cathedral Mid-day services will be held daily at 1.15 during the season of Lent, when addresses will be delivered by the following clergy—Feb. 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th, the Rev. P. G. Eliot, vicar of Holy Trinity, Bournemouth; March 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, the Rev. G. E. Jelf, Canon of Rochester; 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, the Rev. E. C. Gough, vicar of Christ Church, Wolverhampton; 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th, the Rev. Prebendary Hole; 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th, the Rev. Canon Knox Little; 30th, 31st, April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the Rev. Canon Mason, rector of Allhallows Barking, City. There will be sermons at the usual afternoon service on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Special services will be held in the choir of Westminster Abbey on Sunday evenings, at 7, during the season of Lent. The following will be the preachers: February 22, the Rev. Canon Capel Cure, rector of St. George's, Hanover-square; March 1, the Rev. Herbert Rowsell, vicar of St. Luke's, Shepherd's-bush; 8th, the Rev. J. E. C. Welldon, Headmaster of Dulwich College; 15th, the Rev. J. Grey Richardson, vicar of St. John's, Darlington; 22nd, the Rev. Canon Percival, President of Trinity College, Oxford; 29th, the Rev. F. J. Chavasse, rector of St. Peter-le-Bailey, Oxford. On the afternoon of the 24th inst. (St. Matthias), the sermon will be preached by the Rev. H. D. Thomas, vicar of Longden, in the place of Canon Rowsell.

The power of working "faith-healing miracles" has now been assumed by the Salvation Army. "Major" Pearson, who professes a power of restoring the blind, the deaf, and the lame, held services on Sunday in the Tontine-street Circus, Hanley. Many thousands of persons attended, including over a hundred invalids of all ages, some of whom were brought to the Circus in bath-chairs, being unable to use their lower limbs. After the ordinary service the faith-healing ceremonial commenced. The "major" and his "subalterns" threw off their outer garments and descended into the arena. A lad who had been a cripple from an early age was first operated upon, and while the "major" vigorously rubbed the disabled limb, his followers and the congregation, at the request of the "major," engaged in prayer. They prayed earnestly and long, and finally the lad was induced to rise and walk about a little. The "major," amidst the greatest excitement, proclaimed that the Almighty had answered their prayers. Before this result was brought about the "major's" followers had dispersed themselves over the hall, each detachment surrounding one of the many who had come to be healed. They prayed most vigorously, and the scene, which lasted until midnight, was of a most exciting character. An old woman, who represented that she had been deaf for forty years, stated that she had regained her hearing, and a young woman, who went to the building stone deaf, testified to her cure. Another young woman, a confirmed invalid, who was taken to the Circus in a bath-chair, was prayed for and finally staggered to her feet, and walked a yard or two, and a few moments afterwards another woman walked feebly across the building, her bath-chair being hoisted over the heads of the people, the throng shouting, "The Lord be praised," and making use of ejaculations expressive of their astonishment. Several persons ascended the platform, and publicly testified to their cure, and the congregation joined in thanksgiving for these miraculous recoveries.

The following are the names of the preachers appointed for the season of Lent at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall:—Feb. 22nd, morning, the Rev. Edgar Sheppard, afternoon, the Rev. John H. Crowfoot; 25th, the Rev. Prebendary Moore; 27th, the Rev. Henry White; March 1st, morning, the Bishop-Designate of Exeter (Dr. Bickersteth), afternoon, the Rev. Arthur J. Worlledge; 4th, the Rev. Robert W. Powell; 6th, the Rev. J. H. Ellison; 8th, morning, the Dean of Peterborough (Dr. Perowne), afternoon, the Rev. John R. Cornish; 11th, the Rev. W. H. Carter; 13th, the Rev. Berdmore Compton; 15th, morning, the Dean of Manchester (Dr. Oakley), afternoon, the Rev. J. Grey Richardson, vicar of St. John's, Darlington; 18th, the Rev. Prebendary Wace; 20th, the Rev. Canon Elwyn; 22nd, morning, the Dean of Carlisle (Dr. Henderson), afternoon, the Archdeacon of Bristol (Dr. Norris); 25th, the Rev. Canon Overton; 27th, the Rev. George C. Blaxland; 29th (Palm Sunday), morning, the Dean of Clanmacnois (Dr. Reichel), afternoon, the Rev. William Benham; 30th, the Rev. William W. Merry; 31st, the Rev. John J. Lias: April 1, the Rev. William Hutton; 3rd (Good Friday), morning, the Archdeacon of London (Dr. Gifford), afternoon, the Rev. Robert Eyton, Sub-Almoner to the Queen; 4th, the Rev. Canon Knollys; 5th, morning, the Rev. Dr. Hornby, Provost of Eton College, afternoon, the Rev. William Barker. Divine service on Wednesdays and Fridays (except Good Friday) at 12 noon.

The following is the list for the Chapel Royal, St. James's:—February 22nd, Sunday, the Bishop of Ripon; 25th, Wednesday, Rev. Dr. Wace; 27th, Friday, Rev. Canon Richard Gee; March 1, Sunday, the Bishop of Chester; 4th, Wednesday, Hon. and Rev. G. W. Bourke; 6th, Friday, Rev. F. A. J. Hervey; 8th, Sunday, the Bishop of Truro; 11th, Wednesday, Ven. Archdeacon Blunt; 13th, Friday, Rev. Canon James Fleming; 15th, Sunday, the Bishop of Southwell; 18th, Wednesday, Hon. and Rev. Canon G. T. O. Bridgeman; 20th, Friday, Hon. and Rev. F. E. C. Byng; 22nd, Sunday, the Bishop of Derry; 25th, Wednesday, Rev. Dr. Pigou; 27th, Friday, Rev. Canon C. F. Tarver; 29th, Palm Sunday, the Archbishop of Canterbury; April 1, Wednesday, Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies; 3rd, Good Friday, the Dean of Westminster; 5th, Easter Day, Her Majesty's Sub-Almoner (the Rev. Robert Eyton, for the Lord High Almoner Dean of Worcester, Very Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton).

A course of Lent lectures will be delivered in St. Alphage's, London-wall, on Friday evenings at 8 o'clock, commencing on February 20. The following is a list of the preachers:—The Rev. D. Trinder, the Rev. Dr. Stokoe, the Rev. Prebendary Leathes, the Ven. the Archdeacon of Middlesex, the Ven. the Archdeacon of London, and the Rev. Professor Momerie. Young men are invited to attend.

Liberationists often boast of the self-supporting virtues of Nonconformity. But the *Christian Life*, a Unitarian journal, of Liberationist views, publishes the following official statement:—"A very noteworthy calculation was contained in the report which the Executive Committee of the British and Foreign Association laid before the Council last month. They reckoned that 'only about one-half of our Unitarian congregations are entirely self-supporting.' This is a serious fact."

The Rev. William Henry Long Gilbert, M.A., chaplain to Her Majesty's Prison, Wandsworth, died at his official residence on Monday morning from a severe but short illness, originating in a cold whilst carrying on his daily duties. Mr. Gilbert was appointed to his post of chaplain by the magistrates of Surrey in October, 1867, at which time he was senior curate of St. Philip's, Kensington. His long service of nearly eighteen years has been faithfully and conscientiously fulfilled.

The death is announced of the Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., of Alameda, California. The deceased was born in 1820. He became very prominent as an Abolitionist, and refused to connect himself with the old body of the Presbyterians until slavery was abolished. He laboured strenuously during the anti-slavery agitation, and also on behalf of the sick and wounded during the Civil War. Dr. Patterson was a voluminous contributor to periodical literature, and was also the author of a volume entitled *Fables of Infidelity*, a book of travels in Egypt and Southern Europe, and other works.

The jubilee meeting of the Church Pastoral Aid Society was held on Thursday afternoon at the Mansion House; Mr. J. Deacon, treasurer, in the chair. Amongst those present were Sir T. F. Buxton, the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Bishops Alford and Helmuth, Canon Hoare, Canon Carver, Archdeacon Richardson, Major-General Davidson, Prebendary Wilson, Mr. C. Aspinall, Rev. J. F. Kitto, and a large number of ladies and clergymen. In opening the proceedings, the chairman, having apologised for the absence of the Lord Mayor and the Earl of Shaftesbury, said that forty-nine years ago the Pastoral Aid Society was founded for the purpose of rendering help to the overworked incumbents of town and country parishes, the great centres of commerce being most benefited. The object of that meeting was to revive public interest in the Society and increase the funds at its disposal. The Bishop of Sodor and Man then addressed the meeting on the claims which the Society had upon Evangelical Churchmen, of whom he claimed to be one. Its work was essentially of a pastoral character, lying mainly outside the church building. He believed that if the work of the Society were trebled it would extend the benefits of religion and prove a true defence of the Church of England. Mr. F. Bevan also urged the claims of the Society, because it taught the Gospel free from Broad Church or High Church tendencies. One good effect had followed the foundation of the Society in the change it had brought about with regard to lay help, and their High Church brethren no longer prohibited laymen from preaching the Bible. Canon Hoare pressed the claims of the Society for its distinctive principles, which, he believed, were in accordance with those of the Church of England. Mr. C. Aspinall said the Committee hoped to mark the jubilee year of the Society by raising a sum of £50,000, and he hoped all present would endeavour to help them. Canon M'Cormick having made a few remarks on the subject of missions, Bishop Hellmuth proposed, and the Rev. J. Richardson seconded, a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and the proceedings terminated.

The missioners to St. Barnabas, Lisson-grove, the Rev. J. H. Stephenson, Prebendary of Wells, and the Rev. Charles H. Chase, vicar of Ambleside, desire to call attention to the parish. It has a population of some 10,000 poor within a few hundred yards of the church, and during the mission many have been to church who have never been seen there before, and at the service held daily for children some 700—many of them genuine gutter children—have attended. A good deal of work has already been done in the parish, but the clergy and their workers are almost paralysed for want of more helpers—men and women. The Rev. R. Towers, vicar of St. Andrew and St. Philip, Kensal-town, North Kensington, pleads for helpers in the work of his parish with its 10,000 laborious poor, nearly every house in the parish being occupied by three or four families. There is quite as much need for workers here as in any East-end parish, and he trusts it may be laid on the hearts of many to come and give their services for the good of this great population of the poor. The Rev. Mr. Towers has had charge of the parish for over sixteen years, and has seen the church schools, mission hall, and vicarage all built and paid for, with the exception of £300 still required. The mission just concluded has been well attended by the poor, and now helpers are needed to follow up the work.

The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels held their usual monthly meeting on Thursday at the society's house, No. 7, Whitehall—Archdeacon Harrison in the chair. There were also present the Revs. Canon Erskine Clarke, C. A. Jones, C. F. Norman, and Canon T. W. Perry, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. G. H. W. Windsor Clive, M.P., Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., Major C. E. Watson, Mr. John Boodle, Mr. J. F. France, Mr. J. Hilton, Mr. F. H. Rooke, and the Rev. R. Milburn Blakiston (secretary).

Grants of money were made in aid of the following objects, viz.:—

Building new churches at Harrow-road, Emmanuel, in the parish of St. Jude's, Kensal-green, Middlesex, £100; Newtown St. John, in the parish of Macclesfield, £120; and Sharlston, in the parish of Warmfield, near Wakefield, £100; rebuilding, on a new site, the church at Silverhill, St. Matthews, in the parish of St. Leonards-on-Sea, £90 in lieu of a former grant of £50. A grant was also made from the Special Mission Buildings Fund towards a mission building in Parfett-street, in the parish of St. Augustine's, Stepney, £10. The society likewise accepted the trust of a sum of money as a repair fund for St. Agnes, Liverpool, and another amount as a building fund for the proposed Church of Holy Innocents, Hammersmith.

The following grants for works completed were paid:—

Towards building new churches at St. Leonards-on-Sea—Christ Church, £1,060 (this large amount was from a special legacy); and Bermondsey, St. Luke, Surrey, £50; and towards enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in the churches at Tytherington, Gloucester, £40; Wateringbury, Kent, £30; St. Colan, Cornwall, £20; Hirwain, Glamorgan, £20; Llanrwst, Denbigh, £50; and Rye, Sussex, £50.

THE COURT.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in last week the Queen was prevented from taking her usual exercise, and postponed her return to Windsor in consequence of a bad cold.

On Wednesday the Queen held a Council, at which were present Lord Carlingford, Lord President; Lord Kensington, M.P., Comptroller of the Household; and General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B. Mr. Charles Lennox Peel was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

On Thursday the Queen arrived at Windsor from Osborne, and in the afternoon inspected the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, under orders for Souakim, in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle.

On Sunday morning the Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, and by Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, and attended by Miss Knollys and Lieutenant-General Sir Dighton Probyn, were present at Divine service at Sandringham Church, when the Rev. F. A. J. Hervey, Domestic Chaplain to the Prince of Wales, officiated. In the evening Prince Albert Victor returned to Trinity College, Cambridge, and Prince George to Greenwich.

On Tuesday afternoon the Princess of Wales, accompanied by Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, and attended by Miss Knollys and Lieutenant-General Sir Dighton Probyn, left Sandringham for Marlborough House, where the Prince of Wales arrived on Thursday from the South of France.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Lowell, the wife of the American Minister, which occurred at her residence, No. 31, Lowndes-square, at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Agreeably to the wish of the Minister, the funeral is to be entirely of a private character.

Lady Mary Lumsden died on Sunday at Colyton, Axminster, aged 71. She was the youngest daughter of the Rev. Henry Grey, grandson of the fourth Earl of Stamford, and sister of Harry, present and eighth Earl of Stamford. She married, in February, 1834, Mr. James Grant Lumsden, and was left a widow in December, 1863.

We have to announce the death of the Hon. Emily Noel Hill, second daughter of Richard, fourth Lord Berwick, and sister of the fifth Baron and of the present peer, which occurred on Saturday last at Coton Manor, near Shrewsbury, aged 77 years.

By the death of Miss Gilbert, the Lady President of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, the industrious blind have sustained a felt loss. Miss Gilbert was the eldest daughter of Dr. Gilbert, late Bishop of Chichester, and being at an early age suddenly struck with blindness, brought on by an illness, she devoted her life and energy for the benefit of her fellow-sufferers. In 1854 she rented a small cellar in Holborn, and had a few men taught to make baskets. The work rapidly advanced, and in 1856 she founded the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind. With an endowment of £2,000, which she herself gave for the purpose, this excellent charity has gone on expanding, and now has large workshops and sheds near the Middlesex Hospital. It gives employment to seventy-four men and women, besides grants and pensions to twenty-five blind people, and latterly to the old worn-out workers, who are paid by funds subscribed by the public.

A successful and well-attended dinner took place on Wednesday evening, at the Criterion, Piccadilly, under the auspices of the Westminster Jews' Free School Institution. The committee, in their report, state that, up to 1882, the schools were located in Greek-street, Soho; but pressing need of larger buildings and a playground for the children compelled the committee to seek a new site, a suitable one being found in Hanway-place, Oxford-street. Here a lofty and convenient schoolhouse has been erected, at a cost of over £7,000, the unsubscribed remainder of which sum it is now sought to obtain from the public. There are nearly 500 girls and boys in the school, many of them coming from Clerkenwell, Bayswater, Pimlico, and even further, 100 of whom receive penny dinners during the winter months. The education afforded is such as to fit the children for usefulness in their sphere of life, the teaching of the last year being highly spoken of by the Government inspector, and the general management described as very satisfactory.

In 28 great towns of England and Wales the rate of mortality last week was 20·9 per thousand of their aggregate population. In London the rate was 19·5, having been in the two preceding weeks 24·1 and 20·3. The number of deaths in London was 1,525, including 24 from small-pox, 28 from measles, 17 from scarlet fever, 16 from diphtheria, 50 from whooping-cough, 10 from enteric fever, 1 from an ill-defined form of continued fever, and 6 from diarrhœa and dysentery. Although the fatality from small-pox had declined, the number exceeded the weekly average by seven; and there were in addition to the number stated above, 22 deaths of London residents from this disease recorded in the Metropolitan Asylums hospitals situated outside Registration London. The number of small-pox patients in these hospitals, which had been 1,146 and 1,144 on the preceding Saturdays, had risen to 1,223 at the end of last week. The fatal cases of measles showed an increase, and those of scarlet fever a further decline from recent weekly numbers.

Dr. de Watteville, the physician in charge of the electro-therapeutical department of St. Mary's Hospital, contributes to the current number of the *British Medical Journal* a remarkable account of a new cure of writer's cramp, which will be good news to the large number of literary men and women, clerks, musicians, &c., who are afflicted with it. He declares that writer's cramp, or scrivener's palsy, has hitherto defied the most strenuous efforts of therapeutics. The pharmacopœia has been ransacked in the search for a suitable drug wherewith to combat the symptoms, but in vain. Variously shaped pens and supports for the hand and arm, electrical and hydropathic applications, and even protracted rest, have generally proved useless in severe cases. At last, however, a system, which is described as a peculiar combination of *massage* and gymnastics, has been brought into operation with very remarkable success by a German, Herr Julius Wolff. This gentleman, having gained a considerable reputation in his own country, was in 1881 called to Paris by Professor Charcot, and in two or three weeks had cured two inveterate cases of writer's cramp. These cures, with others previously effected in Germany, made a considerable impression in the medical world, and when a few months ago Herr Wolff came to settle in London, his arrival was regarded with interest by many of our principal physicians. Dr. de Watteville gives minute particulars of some of the cases in which the new treatment has succeeded in enabling sufferers from this most distressing affection to write clearly and without pain, thus confirming the observations made by the eminent Professors Billroth, in Vienna, Nussbaum, in Munich, and others. The *massage* consists of rubbing, kneading, stretching, and beating of the fingers and the several muscles of the hand and arm. There are gymnastic exercises, both active and passive; and, most important of all, there are graduated exercises in writing, with a view of calling into play a new set of muscles in lieu of those injured by the cramp. The writer concludes by mentioning the case of a gentleman sent by him to Herr Wolff. Here the disease was of seventeen years' duration, and yet in less than a fortnight the patient was able to write for several hours a day, with almost normal rapidity and firmness.

The men Cunningham and Burton, who are charged with being concerned in the dynamite plot, were brought up again on Monday before Sir J. Ingham, at Bow-street. An auctioneer named Myers said he was at the Farringdon-street Station of the Underground Railway on January 2 (the evening of the explosion), and having a hamper of crockery with him he attempted to enter the spare brake, but Cunningham, who was leaning from the window, with his arms on the door, prevented Myers from entering. Three other witnesses identified Cunningham as a traveller by the train in question, and some evidence was given that Burton was one of the other two men with Cunningham. The prisoners were again remanded.

The *Nonconformist* of February 12 published a special supplement containing statistics of the accommodation provided by the various religious bodies in what is called Inner London, the estimated population of which last midsummer was 4,019,361. The information has been collected during the last two years by the London Congregational Union, and is derived from official sources. It appears that the total sittings provided are 1,388,792, which is about double the provision of 1851, when the last religious census was taken, and is in the ratio of 34·55 per cent. to the population. Nevertheless, the aggregate deficiency is now 40 per cent. more than in 1851, owing to the vast increase of the population in the interval—70 per cent. The ratio of provision made by the nine principal denominations is as follows:—Church of England, 677,645; Congregationalists, 172,547; Baptists, 136,178; Wesleyans, 96,410; Primitives, 17,785; Methodist Free Churches, 17,100; Presbyterians, 32,221; Salvation Army, 36,180; Roman Catholics, 21,190. Comparing the Church of England with all the outside bodies combined, the relative proportion of sittings is as 48.8 per cent. to 51.2 per cent., showing that the free churches of London provide 2.4 per cent. more than the Established Church. It is also shown that since 1851 the former have increased the means of public worship at the rate of 152.3 per cent., the latter at the rate of 65.34 per cent.

The Rev. Stephen and Mrs. Gladstone returned to Hawarden on Tuesday from their wedding tour, and were heartily welcomed. The village was decorated with flags, and many hundreds of persons assembled to receive them. A Committee of Management and the members of the Loyal Order of Druids, headed by a band, met the rector and his wife at the foot of the hill, where the Druids presented an address. The rector having responded, the horses were taken from the carriage, and a body of men drew the vehicle to the entrance to the rectory, where the committee, on behalf of the parishioners, presented the rector with another address. Upon proceeding to the rectory a third address was presented on behalf of the school children, Sunday scholars, and teachers. Subsequently about 400 old people were entertained at tea in the boys' schoolroom, Mrs. Gladstone, Miss Mary Gladstone, and Mr. Henry Gladstone assisting in waiting upon them. In the evening a ball was given.

A fire broke out early on Thursday morning in a mill at Knuzden, near Blackburn; and a wall which fell upon those who were working to remove the contents of the building caused the death of six men.

Three or four thousand of the unemployed of London held a demonstration on Monday afternoon on the Embankment, near Cleopatra's Needle, and afterwards marched to Westminster, carrying banners, on which were inscribed "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," "Vox Populi vox Dei," and other mottoes. From Whitehall a large number passed into Downing-street, near the Premier's residence, where a Cabinet meeting was being held at the time; but at the request of the police the crowd moved round to King-street, where they were addressed in somewhat inflammatory terms by some of their leaders, who wore red badges. Mr. G. W. Russell, Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, received a small deputation of the leaders, and expressed sympathy with those who were suffering distress on account of want of employment. The Government could not (he said) interfere with the hours of labour in the case of such independent enterprises as railways. The public arsenals, dockyards, and such public departments were, on the other hand, under the management of departments over which the Local Government Board had no control. With regard to the Local Government Board, it could not coerce local authorities into the spending of money for works of public improvement; but there was a perfect willingness on the part of that Board to give the necessary sanction to any application from those bodies for expenditure on such public works as they might deem to be necessary. Those local bodies might be approached on the subject, and it was in the power of the people to elect such men on those boards as they thought best. During the interview, which lasted one hour and twenty minutes, the crowd outside showed symptoms of turbulence which the police had great difficulty in keeping in check. On several occasions there was an ugly rush made to force an entrance into the Local Government offices, but without success.

In the Divorce Division last week it was held to be proved that the Rev. Philippe Ahier, vicar of Glaisdale, Yorkshire, and holding a preachership at a French Protestant church in London, the father of five children, the eldest being ten years of age, had ill-treated his wife, seduced his nursery governess, and otherwise grossly misconducted himself. Mr. Justice Butt pronounced a decree *nisi* with costs, the wife to have the custody of the children. The next day Mr. Ahier said he should appeal.

A wife's petition for a divorce from the Rev. William Wentworth Wodehouse, who is rector of Distington, in Cumberland, was heard on Saturday. The wife stated that her husband, who married her in 1878, was given to drink, and when she remonstrated with him he abused her in the coarsest manner, and he had made some disreputable insinuations respecting her. Mr. Wodehouse did not deny the adultery with a servant that was charged against him; but the judge held that legal cruelty was not proved. There were, he said, cases in which cruelty was held to have been established, although there had been no actual violence; but in those instances the evidence of conduct calculated to produce mental pain went further than it did in this case. Consequently he dismissed the petition, leaving it open for an appeal to be brought, and in case of failure for an application for a judicial separation to be made.

Sir William Harcourt on Thursday received a deputation representing the unemployed in London at the Home Office. The objects set forth as sought to be attained were not supported by a demonstration of any kind. Mr. Arnold White, in introducing the deputation, said what was asked for was relief without degradation, and amongst the remedies to be applied were work and emigration. Mr. C. M'Cann and Mr. Browett, labourers, having spoken, the Rev. A. Mearns and the Rev. R. Horton followed. Sir W. Harcourt, replying, said a state of things had been shown to exist which eminently deserved and required the attention of the Government. He would endeavour to bring what had been advanced before others whose opinion was more important than his own.

A preliminary meeting, convened by the Patriotic Association, was held on Wednesday at the Townhall, Westminster, under the presidency of Mr. Tomlinson, M.P. Mr. Pfoundes, the secretary, read a telegram from Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., stating that had he been able to be in London he would have taken the chair. In moving that a national tribute should be offered to the memory of General Gordon, Mr. Rusden, as a personal friend of the defender of Khartoum, remarked that it was not to be proved—indeed, it could be utterly disproved—that Gordon's mission failed. On the very day of his arrival at Khartoum, General Gordon recommended the appointment of Zebehr Pasha as the only man for the situation; but, as that was never tried, how could it be said that his mission failed? With something like prophetic instinct, General Gordon warned the Government that the danger to Khartoum arose more from internal conspiracy than from attacks without. He thought that no sublimer instance of patience, courage, and devotion than the defence of Khartoum could be pointed to in the whole history of this country. Mr. Green seconded the resolution, remarking that the Turkish Ambassador had said to him that until the Sultan's army had inflicted defeat on the Mahdi the religious element in the Soudan would not be broken up. The resolution was carried, as were also others expressing sympathy with the family of General Gordon, and especially with his sister, and declaring that after the terrible sacrifice of life and treasure in the Soudan the British forces ought not to retire before establishing a stable government for the country. It was decided to form a provisional committee, for which a meeting will be held at the offices of Association, 46A, Pall-mall, on Monday next at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Henry Richard has received the following reply from Mr. Gladstone acknowledging the resolutions of the Peace Society:—"10, *Downing-street, Whitehall, Feb.* 17, 1885.—My Dear Sir,—Mr. Gladstone is obliged to you for forwarding to him the resolutions which were passed at the meeting of the committee of the Peace Society, held last Friday, and I am to assure the committee that Mr. Gladstone regards with respect and sympathy their desire for a pacific settlement in the Soudan. They are aware that Lord Wolseley has taken every means in his power to make it known that his aims are not aggressive but friendly to that country. But there are other considerations of which account has to be taken, and among them those which prevented the lamented General Gordon from taking advantage at any time of the means of personal escape which may have been open to him. I am to add that withdrawal of Her Majesty's forces from the Soudan under the circumstances of the present moment would not, in the belief of Her Majesty's Government, promote the cause of peace or prevent the effusion of blood.—I remain, yours faithfully, E. W. HAMILTON.—Henry Richard, Esq., M.P."

A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* thus writes of the Royal Highlanders:—"Few words are needed in proof of the Black Watch's title to a foremost place in the roll of glory. They have been to the front in almost every engagement which has been fought since this accursed fray began. In De Neuville's picture of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir the most prominent figure is Robert Coveny cheering on his men. He now has gone to join his comrades who fell on that eventful morning. It was my privilege, in connection with the painting of that picture, to act as the intermediary between the artist and the principal actors in the scene. Full of pardonable delight at having this episode in his regiment's history thus handed down to posterity, Coveny was modesty itself as to the position to be assigned to him. So anxious was he that every detail should be correct that he volunteered a visit to the artist in Paris, where on seeing the picture he expostulated against the prominence so rightly accorded to him. He had been wounded in the shoulder, and his tunic which he lent to the artist was stained with blood, but he would not allow this to be depicted on the picture, for, as he jocularly remarked, 'It wasn't bad enough for me to leave my men.' It was, however, sufficiently serious to necessitate his being invalided home, whence at the earliest moment he returned to his post. His twenty-three years' service include Ashantee, Tel-el-Kebir (mentioned in despatches), El Teb, and Tamai. Some months ago you were so good as to insert the contents of a letter he had written to me in which he protested against the proposed dole of money instead of a medal for the Soudan Expedition of last year, for as he rightly said the soldier much preferred his medal which would cost a few shillings to a much larger grant of money, which would be dissipated in a week."

A medical man commenting on the suggestion that a daily ration of oakum, or a regular spell at the treadmill, would form a salutary addition to privation of liberty in the case of first-class misdemeanants, says that he had occasion to visit Mr Edmund Yates a few days after his incarceration respecting the illness of a member of his family, and a fortnight after had again to see him on the same subject. He was shocked at the change that had taken place in Mr. Yates's appearance in that short interval. He seemed to have aged nearly ten years, and his face had a careworn, anxious look, quite unlike the ordinary beaming aspect of the "genial god" so familiar to Londoners in places of public resort. He appeared altogether broken and depressed and was excessively nervous in manner, although evidently making a strong effort to be outwardly cheerful.

While other people have been talking, and have gradually talked themselves out, anent the housing of the poor, a public-spirited rich man here and there has been silently doing, on a small scale, what is wanted. The latest instance of such praiseworthy work is the block of model dwellings now being erected on his Shadwell estate by Lord Strathmore. These buildings are specially designed to meet the case of that class of persons who, as abundant evidence has proved, cannot afford more than a single-room tenement, and are carefully devised to minimise the physical and moral drawbacks of so circumscribed a dwelling. A common club-room, laundry, &c., are designed to provide the necessary material and some social comforts which are almost unattainable luxuries to most of the poor. Altogether the experiment is an excellent one, thoroughly deserving of success.

One of the cleverest inventions of modern times is the remarkable contrivance called "The Miranda Pianista," by means of which any person may with the greatest facility play the most difficult piece of music on an ordinary piano or other keyboard instrument, the performance being in every way most accurate. It has already called forth the highest commendation from some of the best-known musicians in the world, and is destined, we doubt not, to become exceedingly popular with all classes of society, as the moderate price at which it is sold places it within the reach of all. The principle of this ingenious invention may be briefly described as follows: Projecting from one side of the "Miranda" is a series of wooden levers or fingers exactly the width of the pianoforte keys to be operated upon. These levers are moved in accordance with holes in perforated cards as in the Jacquard loom, a series of small pneumatic valves (worked automatically by a reservoir bellows) producing the motive power. On placing the "Miranda" in position in front of a piano, and turning a handle, the perforated cards are drawn through, and the mechanical fingers are moved with an exactness not always obtained even by expert pianoforte players. The matter of expression is secured by a little lever controlled by the left hand, on moving which a stronger or weaker touch is possible, to the extent desired by the performer. Further, the ordinary pedals of the pianoforte are extended and carried through to the front of the invention so as to be under the control of the performer. As we have already said, the "Miranda" can be applied with equal facility to any keyboard instrument, is admirably suited to the American organ, and will undoubtedly prove a boon to very many persons possessing instruments who are at present either unable to play them, or who can do so only imperfectly; while in school and meeting rooms, where small organs are often more ornament than use, from the fact that no player is present, the "Miranda" will prove exceedingly valuable, as by its use the necessary music can at all times be forthcoming. When not required for use it can be detached from the pianoforte or organ, and then forms a very handsome additional piece of furniture, being in the form a drawing-room cabinet. When on view recently at the Furniture Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, it attracted considerable attention. It is certainly well worth seeing, for as a wonderful piece of mechanism it surpasses anything of the kind we have ever seen. It is now on view at the office of the Automatic Musical Instrument Company (Limited), 3, Copthall-buildings, E.C., where it may be seen daily in operation between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Lord Avonmore died of enteric fever at Kerbekan, on the 13th inst. He was a Viscount in the Peerage of Ireland, but was not one of the representative Peers entitled to a seat in the House of Lords. He had completed his twenty-sixth year two days before his death. He was educated at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, appointed second lieutenant of the 37th Foot, in January, 1878; became lieutenant in the same regiment (now known as the Hampshire Regiment) in February, 1879, was appointed instructor in musketry in January, 1882, and received his commission as captain in November last. He succeeded his father, who had served in New Zealand and through the Crimean campaign as an officer of Royal Artillery, in 1883, and is now succeeded in the title by his brotner the Hon. William Algernon Yelverton, who was born in 1866.

Anyone afflicted with stammering or stuttering should read a little book (written by a gentleman who cured himself after suffering for more than thirty years), to be had from the Author, Mr. B. Beasley, Green Bank House, Hall Green, near Birmingnam, for 13 stamps.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets, labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich, and 149, New Bond-street, London, solicit a visit to their showrooms, where they have always on view stained-glass windows and other objects of ecclesiastical art, executed for almost any part of the kingdom. Messrs. Mayer and Co. will have great pleasure in submitting designs and estimates for any window in contemplation, free of all charge.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. Filters professing to remove lime effectually are fallacy, as no filter yet invented will do so permanently, and all filters in which sponge is introduced are on the old system, for using which with the idea of removing organic matter (that usually productive of disease) the public were cautioned against, as being of no avail, in the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council; and this caution is the more necessary as these filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY PATENTED FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest animal charcoal, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification" Price 6d.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Feb. 14 was—medical 1,108, surgical 677; total 1,757, of which 808 were new cases.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 11, at the Rookery, Darley Dale, the wife of the Rev. W. DE PIPE-BELCHER, of a daughter.

Feb. 11, at Stalbridge Rectory, Dorset, the wife of the Rev. CHARLES EDWD. UNWIN, Curate-in-Charge, of a son.

Feb. 12, at Newton St. Cyres Vicarage, near Exeter, the wife of the Rev. J. A. GOULD, of a daughter.

Feb. 13, the wife of the Rev. ALBERT C. ABDY, Rector of St. Mary, Stamford, of a daughter.

Feb 13, at St. Michael's Vicarage, Blackburn, the wife of the Rev. SEYMOUR F. HARRIS, of a daughter.

Feb. 14, the wife of the Rev. C. H. SIMPKINSON, The Vicarage, Blackheath-hill, of a daughter.

Feb. 17, at North Lodge, Hurstpierpoint, the wife of the Rev. W. S. ANDREWS, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 11, at St. Mary's Church, Newtown Forbes, Sir HENRY GRATTAN BELLEW, Bart., 5th Dragoon Guards, to the Lady SOPHIA MARIA ELISABETH FORBES, second daughter of the Earl of Granard.

Feb. 12, at St. Paul's Church, Sketty, ROBERT ARMINE, eldest son of Sir JOHN ARMINE MORRIS, Bart., of Sketty Park, Swansea, to LUCY AUGUSTA, second daughter of T. CORY, Esq., of Sketty House.

Feb. 14, at St Mary Abbott's, Kensington, ARTHUR J. L. GORDON, Younger of Elon, to CAROLINE AUGUSTA, second daughter of General the Hon. Sir ALEXANDER H. GORDON, M.P.

Feb. 14, at St. George's, Hanover square, W., Lieutenant-Colonel CRAIG, 2nd Brigade, North I. Division, Royal Artillery, only son of the late Thomas Craig, Esq., of Glen Park, Carrickfergus, to CLEMENTINA ISABELLA M., widow of the late Hon. SYDNEY SKEFFINGTON.

Feb. 14, at the parish church, Stokesley, the Rev. CHARLES SPENCER NEWHAM, of Christ Church, Lancaster-gate, W., to ZOE MARY, second daughter of the Rev. LLOYD S. BRUCE, R.D., Canon of York and Rector of Stokesley.

Feb. 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, JONATHAN BUCKNILL, B.A., Christ Church, Oxford, second son of the late Rev. George Bucknill, of High Kreal, Salop, to SUSANNA EMILY, daughter of Admiral Sir WILLIAM EDMONSTONE, Bart., C.B., of Duntreath.

Feb. 17, at Holy Trinity Church, Gosport, FRANK ERNEST THICKE, of Barnes, Surrey, to FLORENCE EMMA, youngest daughter of Captain Sir ALFRED BALLISTON, R.N., of Clarence-square, Gosport.

DEATHS.

On or about the 24th Sept. last, at Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, from the effects of an accident, ARCHIBALD BENNIE, Esq., younger son of the late Rev. Dr. Bennie, of Lady Yesters, Edinburgh, N.B., one of the Deans of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal in Scotland and Chaplain to the Queen.

Feb. 11, at Worksop, Notts, LUCY MARY, widow of the Rev. JAMES APPLETON, M.A., formerly Vicar of Worksop, in her 76th year.

Feb 13, at 5, The Lees, Folkestone, EMILY MARY, youngest daughter of the late Sir EDWARD GEORGE THOMAS PAGE-TURNER, Baronet, of Ambrosden, Oxfordshire.

Feb. 13, at 4, South Parade, Bath, SARAH JANE, widow of the late Rev. BROWNLOW VILLIERS LAYARD, M.A., Rector of Uffington, in the 94th year of her age.

Feb. 15, at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Williams, Beacon Hill, Lichfield, SUSAN HESTHER, the beloved wife of the Rev. H. COULSON LORY, Vicar of St. Mark's, Liverpool.

Feb. 14, at 32, Rue de Bourg, Lausanne, ALINE, widow of the late Rev. ALPHONSE DE LA HARPE, of Bordeaux, and eldest daughter of the late Rev. Caesar Malan, D.D., of Geneva, aged 72.

Feb. 14, at her residence, The Lower Close, Norwich, MARY, eldest daughter of the late Rev. PETER HANSELL, in her 75th year.

Feb. 15, at the Clergy House, Memphis, Tennessee, U.S., EDWARD STANSFELD, eldest son of Rev. B. F. SMITH, Rector of Crayford, Kent, aged 31.

Feb. 16, at 61, Queen's-gardens, Hyde-park, AUGUSTA Lady PLATT, widow of the Hon. Sir Thomas Joshua Platt, in her 89th year.

LATEST NEWS.

Madrid, Feb. 19.

Telegrams from Malaga state that two shocks of earthquake were felt there this afternoon. No damage is reported.

New York, Feb. 20.

News of another failure in the cotton trade has just been received here. Messrs. Gidiere, Day, and Co., of New Orleans, have suspended business. Their liabilities are estimated at 400,000 dollars.

Rome, Feb. 20.

The Ministers of Marine and War are closely engaged in preparing for the prompt adoption of the measures that would become necessary in the event of the conclusion of an Anglo-Italian alliance. A long conference was held yesterday at the Ministry of Marine on this subject. Should there be concerted action between England and Italy in the Soudan, it is expected that General Ricci would receive the command of the Italian contingent.

Korti, Feb. 20.

General Stewart died at Gakdul on the 16th inst. from the wound received in the battle at Metammeh. The news has cast great gloom over the whole of the British force here. The doctors have pronounced that the General's wound was of such a character as to have rendered recovery hopeless.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Korti, telegraphing on Thursday night, says :—

"The news of Sir Herbert Stewart's death, received here to-night, caused the greatest regret to everybody in camp. Only those who were with him throughout the march across the desert can fully appreciate his many rare qualities—his ceaseless energy, his care for the men, his readiness of resource in an emergency, and his merits as a leader. From the moment when he was wounded fears were entertained of a fatal result. He died at Gakdul, always memorable in connection with his first brilliant march on his way back from the scenes of his two victories."

Sir Herbert Stewart, who was the eldest son of the Rev. Edward Stewart, and the grandson of the Hon. Edward Stewart, was born in 1843, and was educated at Winchester. He married, 1877, Georgina Janet, daughter of Admiral Sir James Stirling, and widow of Major-General Sir Henry Tombs, V.C., K.C.B.

The following telegram was sent to the War Office from Korti by Lord Wolseley on Thursday afternoon :—"Messages received from General Brackenbury, dated Ussi Island, 15th inst. His cavalry entered Salamat ; found it deserted. Leading infantry within five miles of Salamat. Horses and camels safely through Shakook Pass, which had been prepared for defence but abandoned by enemy. Brackenbury hopes to be at Abu Hamed by 27th inst., but doubts if he can concentrate there before the 29th, owing to the necessity of crossing mounted troops over to other side of river. He adds that any estimate of time must be very uncertain, owing to difficulties of river."

The latest news from Khartoum states that when the Mahdi heard of the fight at Abu Klea he proclaimed a victory, saying that the English were destroyed, and parading things like helmets on spears as proof of the fact. The Khartoum garrison, believing the report, and being short of rations, levelled a portion of the wall into the ditch, and admitted Njumi's men. On the 11th inst. the Mahdi is said to have been engaged for three days in collecting an army outside Khartoum with which to advance against the English, and he was loading steamers with guns and ammunition. He despatched two sheikhs down the right bank with 3,000 men and four guns, with orders to make a fort opposite the English camp at Gubat. They started on the 8th. All the tribes on the east bank have been ordered by the Mahdi to assemble opposite to Gubat. Generals Dormer and Grenfell arrived at Korti on Thursday.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, Earl Granville brought up two messages from the Queen stating that Her Majesty has "by proclamation directed that certain persons who were otherwise entitled, in pursuance of the terms of the engagement, to be transferred to the Reserves, shall continue in army service for such period not exceeding the period for which they might be required to serve if they were transferred to the Reserves, and called out for further service, as to Her Majesty may seem expedient." The second message commenced in similar terms, and stated that Her Majesty had ordered the embodiment of the militia.

In the House of Commons, the debate on Sir S. Northcote's motion was fixed for Monday, and Mr. Gladstone said he hoped it would be continued daily until concluded.

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Congregational Chapel Building Society, which was formed at Derby in March, 1853, was held at the City Temple, Holborn, on Thursday, under the presidency of Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P. There was an unusually large attendance of clerical and lay delegates from nearly every important Congregational church in the metropolis and the provinces. From the report it appeared that since the establishment of the society 645 churches had been erected through its instrumentality, giving an average of 20 churches a year, containing 300,000 sittings, and involving an outlay of about £1,300,000, besides the building of 45 manses at a cost of £24,000. The balance sheet for the year showed a total of receipts of £10,144 ; payments, including aid to 29 churches and nine manses, and life interest, £4,526 ; investments as before, £5,026 ; and balance, £591. The society also held promissory notes for £11,223.

A Windsor correspondent states that the wives of the Grenadiers who embarked for the Soudan on Thursday were ordered to quit the Windsor Barracks by Friday morning. The women and children, who have no friends with whom they can seek shelter, scarcely know where to find a home, although the commandant of the battalion has, it is said, done his best to assist them. As the wives are only allowed 8d. and the children 2d. a day, they will find themselves in straitened circumstances, and an endeavour is being made at Windsor to raise a subscription on their behalf.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. Arthur Hardy Wood, of Froyle Park, Hants, the master of the H.H. Foxhounds, and Mrs. Marx, widow of the late Captain Marx, of Arle Bury, Hants, and daughter of the late Mr. Jervoise, of Herriard Park, Hants.

Also between Mr. Walter F. Forbes, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Forbes, and the Hon. Katharine Lawley, youngest sister of Lord Wenlock.

Also between James Ferguson, younger, of Kinmundy, and Georgina Anna, eldest daughter of Captain J. De Courcy Agnew, R.A., and granddaughter of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., M.P., of Lochnaw, Wigtownshire.

Also between Mr. Arthur Beilby Pearson Gee, of the Inner Temple and Wadhurst, Surrey, eldest son of Mr. William Pearson, Q.C., and Miss Amy Willmott, second daughter of Mr. Henry Willmott, J.P., of Hatherley Lawn, Cheltenham.

The marriage of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to Alice Anne, eldest daughter of Sir G. Graham-Montgomery, Bart., of Stobo Castle, Peebles, Lord Lieutenant of Kinross-shire, took place on Tuesday, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square. A great number of relatives and personal friends were present at the ceremony. The wedding party had assembled by 11. 30. Mr. Grenville Gore Langton accompanied his grace. The bridesmaids were Miss Evelyn Graham Montgomery, sister of the bride ; Lady Caroline Grenville, Hon. Florence and Hon. Emily Murray, Miss Gore Langton, Miss Clare Gore Langton, Miss Harvey, and Miss Rachel Erskine. On the arrival of the bride, who was accompanied by her mother, at at a quarter to twelve o'clock, she was received by the officiating clergyman and choir (the service being fully choral) at the door, and leaning on the arm of her father, followed by her eight bridesmaids, passed up to the chancel, the choir singing the hymn, "Come, Gracious Spirit." The Very Rev. Jas. T. Montgomery, D.E., Dean of Edinburgh, performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Chas. P. Graham Montgomery, brother of the bride, and the Rev. J. Storrs, vicar of St. Peter's, Sir G. Graham Montgomery giving his daughter away. The wedding party, on leaving the church, adjourned to Sir Graham and Lady Montgomery's house, 45, Grosvenor-place, for breakfast. Shortly after two o'clock the Duke and Duchess took leave of their friends, and started for Stowe, Bucks. Among the most valued of the many gifts received by the bride were from the town of Buckingham, the tenants and others on the Stowe, Wotton, and Kingsbury estates, a splendid diamond and ruby bracelet ; the non-commissioned officers and men of the Bucks Yeomanry, a gold necklace ; the household servants at Stobo Castle, silver tea service in case ; the workpeople at Stobo Castle, centenary illustrated edition of Sir Walter Scott's Works ; the Peeblesshire tenantry, large gilt mirror richly enamelled and pair of candlesticks to match ; and the Kinross-shire tenantry, handsome large gilt and enamel clock and vases. Amongst the Duke of Buckingham's presents was, from the officers of the Royal Bucks Yeomanry Cavalry, a large gold cup and cover elaborately chased, and on the base the following inscription :—"Presented to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, G.C.S.I., on his marriage, by his brother officers of the Royal Bucks Yeomanry Cavalry.—February, 1885."

In the parish church of St. Mary Abbott, Kensington, on Tuesday afternoon, was solemnised by special licence, the marriage of Viscount Lymington, M.P., and Beatrice Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. Edward Pease, of Greencroft Hall, Darlington, and Summer Manor, Bewdley, and niece of Sir Joseph Whitworth Pease, Bart., M.P. The bridegroom was accompanied by his brother, the Hon. Gerard Wallop, as best man. The six bridesmaids were Lady Margaret and Lady Henrietta Wallop, sisters ; Lady Winifred Herbert, cousin of the bridegroom ; Miss Blanche and Miss Ethel Pease, and Miss Player, cousins of the bride. The bride, on her arrival, was received by her uncle, by whom she was afterwards given away. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Canon Liddon, the Rev. Canon Creighton, the Hon. and Rev. E. Carr-Glyn (the vicar), and the Rev. H. John Fellowes, rector of Over Wallop, Hants. The service was choral. After the solemnisation, the wedding party went to 24, Kensington Palace-gardens, where Sir Joseph and Lady Pease held a reception. Later in the afternoon Viscount Lymington and his bride left for Hurstbourne Park, one of Lord Portsmouth's seats in Hants, where they will pass the early days of their honeymoon, they having made arrangements to leave at an early day for Australia, on a visit to his Lordship's brother.

A large and fashionable congregation assembled at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, on Tuesday afternoon for the marriage of Captain Robert G. Wardlaw-Ramsay, of Whitehill and Tillycoultry, Midlothian, and Mary Alice, elder daughter of the late Mr. Charles Swinton Hogg, and niece of Sir James M'Garel-Hogg, Bart., M.P. The marriage (by special licence) was fixed for two o'clock. Mr. Regd. Hart Dyke was the best man. The bridesmaids—ten in number—were Miss Violet Hogg, sister of the bride ; Miss Wardlaw-Ramsay and Miss Alice Wardlaw-Ramsay, sisters of the bridegroom ; Miss Lucy Hogg, Miss Stapleton, Miss Byng, Miss Evelyn Stirling, and Lady Marjorie Gordon, cousins of the bride ; Miss Susan Portman, and Miss Hopwood. The bride was received on alighting at the portico by Sir Jas. M'Garel-Hogg, Bart., her uncle, who conducted her to the chancel. The Rev. H. W. Webb Peploe, vicar of St. Paul's, Onslow-square, officiated, the bride being given away by her mother. The service was fully choral. Later in the afternoon Captain and Mrs. Wardlaw-Ramsay left for Cornwall, where they purpose making a tour.

On Saturday morning, in the parish church of St. Mary Abbott, Kensington, was solemnised the marriage of Mr. Arthur Gordon, younger, of Ellon Castle, Aberdeenshire, and Caroline, second daughter of General the Hon. Sir Alexander Hamilton-Gordon, M.P. The wedding party present on the occasion included the Lord Chancellor and Lady Sophia Palmer, the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, the Dowager Countess of Aberdeen, Lord and Lady Penrhyn, and Hon. Misses Douglas Pennant, Lord Geo. Hamilton, M.P., and Lady Geo. Hamilton, the Dean of Worcester and Lady Alwyne Compton, Colonel and Lady Elizabeth Romilly, and others. Mr. Victor Williamson was the bridegroom's best man ; and the bridesmaids were Misses Louisa and Kathleen Hamilton-Gordon, sisters of the bride, Miss Hardcastle, and Miss Katherine H. Gordon, her cousins, and Miss Mary Marshall, a niece. They wore dresses composed of azalea pink nun's cloth trimmed with pale coffee-coloured lace, and small straw bonnets with azalea blossoms and brown leaves. Each wore a double ivy leaf (the Gordon badge) gold pin, and carried a bouquet of pink azaleas and brown ivy leaves. The bride entered the church punctually at eleven o'clock, and, leaning on the arm of her father, at once proceeded to the chancel, followed by her attendant bridesmaids. She wore a dress of cream *poult de soie*, the front being covered with Brussels lace flounces ; a wreath of natural myrtle, and a tulle veil attached to the hair by a diamond spray, one of the bridegroom's presents, and carried a beautiful bouquet of white azaleas and ivy. The officiating clergy were the Hon. and Rev. Douglas Hamilton-Gordon, M.A., Canon of Salisbury and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. Sir Alexander gave his daughter away. Early in the afternoon Mr. Gordon and his bride left town *en route* to Ellon Castle, N.B.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS.

The Boundary Commissioners' reports for England and Wales and Scotland were issued yesterday (Friday) morning. The report for England and Wales only deals with the counties, the boroughs report being still in the hands of the printers. With reference to county voters in boroughs the Commissioners say :—

"Where the freehold voters for a county have been very numerous in any borough we have endeavoured to adjust the several divisions of the county so that the population of the division in which the borough was included should be below that of the rest ; but in some instances we could not have accomplished this without either severing populations having similar pursuits, or combining those of a different character. We have, therefore, dealt with each case according to its peculiar circumstances, having found it impossible to arrive at any definite rule upon the subject."

As to the names of divisions, they say :—

"In selecting the name to be given to a division we have, in conformity with our instructions, adopted that of some merged borough within it ; and if there has been more than one such borough in a division, we have selected the most important amongst them. In other cases we have taken the name of some well-known town or area."

With reference to the extension of borough boundaries, they observe :—

"We were precluded from recommending any enlargement of borough boundaries of so extensive a character as would entitle the borough to an additional member or have the effect of taking one member from the adjoining county. As regards boroughs with a population under 15,000, any inquiry with a view to extension was evidently unnecessary, as they would under any circumstances be merged in the county. Where we had reason to suppose that a borough did not embrace the whole of the population that ought to be included therein, we have taken steps to ascertain whether an extension of the borough was desirable. Separate reports are appended as to those boroughs in which we recommend that the boundaries should be extended."

The Boundary Commissioners for Scotland report that, in dealing with counties, they have adhered closely to the instruction that the constituencies should, where practicable, consist of an aggregate of parishes ; and thus in many cases divisions will appear wanting in compactness and present to the eye boundaries which might otherwise appear objectionable. Generally the divisions have been named after the points of the compass. The total number of county divisions is twelve. In the divisions of burghs wards have generally been selected as the best area ; and this was in accordance with the feeling expressed by the persons interested. In cases where the municipal boundaries were more extensive than the Parliamentary boundaries the Commissioners have felt the reasonableness of the strongly expressed opinion of making the boundaries coincident by enlarging the Parliamentary limits, and have made recommendations in favour of that course in the case of eight burghs, including Edinburgh and Glasgow. Where the municipal boundaries exceed the Parliamentary boundaries not in consequence of an overflow of population subsequent to the period when the Parliamentary boundary was fixed, but because the old boundary of the royalty was at that period, and still is, much more extensive than the area occupied by the population of the town, the Commissioners have decided not to recommend an extension of Parliamentary boundaries. In accordance with this decision they have been unable to recommend the extension of the boundaries of Glasgow so as to include a large urban population beyond the municipal limits. The number of burgh divisions formed is thirteen. In conclusion the Commissioners desire to acknowledge the uniform courtesy and assistance they received at the hands of burgh and county officials.

ADVANCE, AUSTRALIA !

Sons of the giant Ocean isle,
In sport our friendly foes so long,
Well England knows you, and we smile,
When you outmatch us many a while.
So fleet you are, so keen, and strong.

You, like that fairy people set
Of old, within the circling sea,
Far off from men, might well forget
This elder nation's toil and fret,
Might heed not aught save game and glee !

But what your fathers were you are,
In lands the fathers never knew,
'Neath skies of alien sign and star,
You rally to the English war,
Your hearts are English hearts, and true.

Ay, now when first the shadow falls
On England, and the touch of Fate,
You answer ere your Mother calls,
You leave your ocean-girdled walls,
And face our foemen in the gate !

A. L.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 12.
(Thirty-sixth Quarter)

1. H arri S
2. E gyp T
3. R os E
4. B enbo W
5. E dd A
6. R R
7. T ilsi T

Answers have been received from Asphodel, Felix, Noryb, Sociable, Peewit, Sleepy, Zenobia, Hampton Courtier, Work, Etak, Pegasus, M.A.E.B., Acme, L.E.L., Pansy, Paddy, Conjecture, Pandora, Zyx, Seedy, Noremac, Sarnia, Burleigh, Persevere, Viz, The Owl, Culverin, Zulus, B.H.S., Two Countesses, Iris, and Kildare.

The alternative to Light 3, Acrostic No. 11, "Rienzi" for "Rossi," has been allowed.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.
(First Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.

Slaughtered by men in bloody fray,
Who then make boast of all they slay.

1.

I once had friends, and was well known,
But fear I was quite overdone by Brown.

2.

Potted like herrings—but sure and steady
To obey my orders they are ready.

3.

If craftily set by a skilful hand.
Few its subtlety can withstand.

4.

In settling disputes this modern plan
Will touch the purse, but saves the man.

5.

These little letters so fraught with care,
To the stoutest heart may bring despair.

6.

To be in this is social sort of blight ;
Without it, England would be in a sorry plight.

MARS.

A heavy claim for compensation for unexhausted improvements under the Agricultural Holdings Act has been the subject of a prolonged inquiry at Wigton, Cumberland. It arose out of new conditions of tenure introduced by Sir Wilfrid Lawson some years ago to encourage good farming on his Cumberland estates. The tenant who sought to recover compensation was Mr. W. Norman, lately of High Close Farm, Aspatria, and the amount claimed was £2,278. Sir Wilfrid put in a claim for £300 for "dilapidations" by the tenant. The tenant has farmed under Sir Wilfrid Lawson for many years, and at present rents the Hall Bank Farm under him. At Candlemas, 1870, the tenant gave up a lease of the Hall Bank and High Close Farms, with nine years unexpired, and entered on a new agreement on consideration of receiving £2,500 for permanent improvements. He was, however, to be subject to an advance of £150 in his rent from this date, so that at the present time nearly the whole of the £2,500 had been repaid, while the permanent improvements, the tenant contended, had not materially depreciated. The tenant, in 1870, went in largely for cattle-breeding, and he stated that he had spent large sums on manures and feeding-stuffs, while he had laid down permanent pasture and meadow land extensively. A number of witnesses were called on either side, and the case excited great interest, as the award will affect many tenants of Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

Mr. H. Granville Dickson writes from the Church Defence Institution, St. Stephen's Palace-chambers, 9, Bridge-street, Westminster, S.W. :—"May I say through your columns that we shall be much obliged by receiving from time to time notice of the expressed opinions of candidates at the next election on the subject of Disestablishment?"

During next week the library and collections of the late Rev. E. J. Edwards will be sold by auction at Trentham Vicarage. Among several objects of considerable artistic and historical value there will be offered for sale a very interesting portrait of Pope. It is engraved in red cornelian, and set as a ring. This work was executed by Pope's own direction, and given by him to Bishop Warburton (see letters to Bishop Hurd, 2nd edition, p. 382). Since that time it has passed into the possession of various persons, invariably by bequest, and the names of some of the legatees are engraved on the ring. The fan of Marie Antoinette, the notebook of Louis XIV., and a very fine Sicilian vase (engraved in Christie's "Disquisition on Etruscan Vases") are also included in these collections.

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